Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

OIC Contact Group To Discuss Bosnian Muslims

LD0608205195 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Sarajevo, Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian said here on Sunday [6 August] that military and diplomatic officials of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia will hold a meeting in Tehran this week to study practical ways to help the aggressed Bosnian Muslims.

In an interview with IRNA, Taherian said the officials of Islamic states will meet in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, to hold the final phase of their discussions on the current human plight in Bosnia.

In their meeting in Geneva on July 21, foreign ministers of the OIC contact group condemned the United Nations arms embargo on Bosnia and said Islamic states will no longer heed the embargo.

The contact group comprises of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Tunisia.

Taherian said Iran was opposed to the embargo from the beginning and that other Islamic states declared in Geneva that the embargo is illegal and should be repealed.

He rejected the idea of certain western states that lifting the arms embargo on besieged Bosnia will escalate the war, and said the Serbs have shown that they do not understand any language except that of force.

Taherian said striking a balance of force in the former Yugoslavia is necessary for holding peace negotiations. No peace talks will take place under the circumstances in which the Serbs are armed to the teeth while the under-armed Bosnian army has continued to suffer for the past three years, he said.

Asked about the West's reaction to the OIC decision against the U.N. arms embargo, he said the westerners' view of the crisis in the Balkans is different due to the difference of their interests.

Taherian described the prospects for Bosnia as bright and hopeful in the light of improvement in military and political status of the republic and said the Bosnian people have decided to continue their struggle against the Serbs relying on domestic resources and help from friendly states.

He emphasized that the problem of Bosnia was one of the few issues that enjoys a unified view among Muslims and that the Islamic states have the option to ignore the unjust resolution of the U.N. Security Council and go ahead with their own decisions to help Bosnian Muslims.

On the fall of the U.N.-declared safe havens of Srebrenica and Zepa to the aggressors, the ambassador said the fall of the so-called safe havens was neither a victory for the Serbs nor a defeat for the Bosnians, rather it was a failure and shame for the multi-national forces of the United Nations.

The Iranian ambassador to Sarajevo pointed out that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had disarmed the popular forces of Srebrenica and Zepa over the past two years. The two Bosnian towns were seized by the Serbs last month as they watched in silence.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 1 Aug

NC0708085495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar To Participate in Women's Conference in Beijing
2. Al-Azhar Calls For Banning Book Sanctioning Birth Control
3. Culture Council Demands Information Network on Terrorism
4. Seminar Notes Terrorism, Bloodshed Not Commitment to Religion
5. Youths Discuss Islamic Issues With Grand Imam, Awqaf Minister
6. Column Expresses Anger at Muslim Inaction Toward Bosnians
7. Bosnian Ambassador in Cairo Interviewed on Developments
8. Paper Dedicates Centre Pages to Reportage on Conflict in Bosnia
9. Censorship Department Chief Bans Belly-Dancing in Plays
10. Bosnia-Herzegovina Mufti Interviewed on Plight of Bosnians
11. Column Criticizes UN Chief for Intending To Run for 2d Term

AL-AZHAR TO PARTICIPATE IN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN BEIJING

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 notes that al-Azhar will be taking part in the Conference on the Status of Women in Beijing in September. Al-Azhar will present papers on the status of women in Islamic society

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and will respond to various misconceptions regarding this issue.

AL-AZHAR CALLS FOR BANNING BOOK SANCTIONING BIRTH CONTROL

An unattributed 50-word report on page 2 says al-Azhar has asked that the book "Religious Terrorism and the Problem of Birth Control" by Shaykh Mahmud Muhammad Khadir be banned because it calls for sanctioning birth control and contains expressions inappropriate to Islam and the prophet.

CULTURE COUNCIL DEMANDS INFORMATION NETWORK ON TERRORISM

An unattributed 100-word item on page 2 reports that the National Council for Culture has demanded the establishment of an information network to include anything that has to do with terrorism and terrorist organizations. The Council also called for making this information available to educational institutions so that youths can have access to it.

SEMINAR NOTES TERRORISM, BLOODSHED NOT COMMITMENT TO RELIGION

Page 3 carries an unattributed 2,500-word report on a seminar held in Jazirat al-Qamasah between the youths and 'AQIDATI's ulemas, who answer questions on various issues, including drinking alcohol, army drafting, banking in Islam, art in religion. One student from al-Azhar University asks what Islam dictates an individual should do about discrimination against him. The general supervisor of the seminar is cited answering: "The State encourages individuals to be committed and is not opposed to this. But it does oppose deviation, extremism, fanaticism, and malice in religion. You cannot consider terrorism, murder, and bloodshed a commitment to religion, because no religion advocates these values." He warns youths against being misguided by fancy slogans.

YOUTHS DISCUSS ISLAMIC ISSUES WITH GRAND IMAM, AWQAF MINISTER

Page 5 publishes an unattributed 1,500-word report on a dialogue involving the Youths from the Islamic World in Alexandria and Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq, Minister of Awqaf Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and Former Culture Minister Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al- Majd. The discussion focused on Bosnia-Herzegovina, "international Zionism," crises surrounding the Muslim world, and other issues. On the first issue, the grand imam says the Muslims are weak now and therefore incapable of adopting a united stance. Awqaf Minister Mahjub also comments that the Muslims need to unite round one person and avoid fragmentation. Mahjub says Egypt always performs its role in helping other Muslims. Asked about the methods used by "international Zionism" to depict Islam as a terrorist religion, Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd notes that "international Zionism" spreads erroneous information about Islam through its powerful media. He warns the Muslims not to be misled behind such media. Asked about crises in and around the Muslim world, the grand imam asserts that the Muslims need to unite their ranks and show solidarity to confront their internal and external crises.

COLUMN EXPRESSES ANGER AT MUSLIM INACTION TOWARD BOSNIANS

Basyuni al-Halawani writes a 500-word column, "In All Frankness," on page 6 lamenting what he calls the Muslim countries' inaction over the plight of the Muslim Bosnians. After claiming that the United Nations has failed to help the Bosnians, that the United States and other "big friends" have allowed the Serbs to roam free, and that other "friendly Western states" have revealed their honest hostility to Islam, he asks: "How long will the Muslim governments remain loyal and true to the Western governments and protect their interests in the Muslim countries?" He says that the Muslims can do a great deal to deter the "Serb dogs." He accuses the Muslims of adopting a spectator's view, simply condemning the situation. He notes: "Rabin himself contributed from his private funds to help the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina." Al-Halawani concludes by asking: "What have the Muslims done?" He calls the reaction the "ugliest form of treason against our religion, which urges us to support the victim and stand beside him to alleviate his suffering."

BOSNIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO INTERVIEWED ON DEVELOPMENTS

Page 11 carries an interview with Bosnian Ambassador to Egypt Afdia Hasan Gadrovich, who discusses various issues pertaining to the conflict in his country. He praises the U.S. Senate's decision to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and calls for greater Islamic support for his country. He suggests the United Nations is applying double standards regarding his country and Iraq. He condemns President Clinton's policy, saying it is one based only on interests. He also condemns what he describes as the Russian and British bias toward the Serbs and their providing arms and weapons. He says he hopes Egypt will play a more active role in helping his country and suggests it is becoming like a second Palestine. He says there should be greater action from Islamic ulemas such as the al-Azhar shaykh, Velayati, the mufti of Turkey, and others.

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PAPER DEDICATES CENTER PAGES TO REPORTAGE ON CONFLICT IN BOSNIA

Pages 12 and 13 print pictures of the suffering in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Pages 14, 15, and 16 are also entirely dedicated to Bosnian affairs, including a review of the opinions of various Egyptians and other Muslims on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 18 is again entirely dedicated to Bosnian affairs, including a 1,800-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah reviewing a split in the UN wall with regard to operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. After reviewing UN failures, 'Abdallah discusses UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's responses to the allegations concerning UN failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina and asks: "Does this confirm that the United Nations and its leader are colluding on the Serb aggression?"

CENSORSHIP DEPARTMENT CHIEF BANS BELLY-DANCING IN PLAYS

Page 19 carries a 600-word report on an interview with Dariyah Sharaf-al-Din, chief of the censorship department, by Mamduh al-'Ushri. The interviewee discusses the criteria she applies to theatrical plays, in view of the recent ban on belly-dancing in stage plays. She says: "I cannot imagine that in the name of trade and art, and in the name of trading with art, I would trade the values of my people." She maintains that censoring belly-dancing stems from her love of her country and her concern to protect Egypt's image and reputation.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA MUFTI INTERVIEWED ON PLIGHT OF BOSNIANS

Page 20 publishes a 2,000-word interview with the mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Mustafa Yasin. The mufti discusses Serb actions, expressing his dissatisfaction with the performance of the UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina and calling for greater participation and activity by the Arab and Islamic countries.

COLUMN CRITICIZES UN CHIEF FOR INTENDING TO RUN FOR 2D TERM

Page 24 publishes the 500-word "A Call To Reason" column by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf in which he criticizes UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. He notes that Butrus-Ghali intends to run for a second term as UN secretary general and wonders how he will do that. He claims that when someone runs for a second term, he must have scored remarkable achievements in his name. He says Egypt nominated Dr. Butrus-Ghali because he was an appropriate candidate at the time. He attributes the change in Dr. Butrus-Ghali to "Dr. Butrus-Ghali's personality or the circumstances of the UN after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the United States' taking unilateral control of decisionmaking and the application of pressure in the world. Perhaps it can be attributed to the international balance and accounts and different interests, which sometimes meet and at other times conflict." He suggests these could be the reasons for what he calls the UN's failure to help the Bosnians. He concludes that Butrus-Ghali has lost most, if not all, of his credibility. He says he doubts Butrus-Ghali will be elected UN chief for a second term.

Palestinian Affairs

Committee Urges Clinton To Release Abu-Marzuq

TA0408172495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Aug 95 pp 1, 23

[Report by unidentified AL-QUDS correspondent and Quds Press]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nabulus, Ramallah — The committee of national and Islamic institutions and organizations in Nabulus yesterday sent a memo to U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem protesting the detention in the United States of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Political Bureau.

The memo, examined by QUDS PRESS, stated that "the committee and the Palestinian people, in all their national and Islamic organizations and institutions, condemn the grave step taken by the U.S. Administration in detaining Dr. Abu-Marzuq."

The memo added that "Dr. Abu-Marzuq is rightly regarded as one of the most prominent political leaders of the Palestinian people. The institutions' committee is extremely concerned over the unjustified detention step carried out by the U.S. Administration, which confirms the total bias in favor of Israeli positions."

The committee of national and Islamic institutions and organizations called for the immediate release of the Palestinian leader and noted "the serious and negative repercussions that his continued detention, or the suggestion that he might be handed over to Israel, will have."

The committee warned that this U.S. step "will trigger waves of anger throughout the entire region," and stressed the need "to approach all international institutions and bodies, human rights organizations, and the Palestinian Authority for the release of Dr. Abu-Marzuq." [passage omitted]

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Israel, U.S. Warned on 'Deals' Over Abu-Marzuq

TA0408153495 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Political Trading"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If one country were to be described as terrorist and worthy of carrying this honor and winning an Oscar with it, that country is the United States, which has appointed itself as the "headman" of the Arab and western worlds. It issues charges of terrorism whenever it desires and exonerates whomever it wishes. The criteria are no more than its power, arrogance, and contempt for nations. A great power like the United States, along with its major political and security officials, is concentrating most of its thoughts today on the most serious contemporary issue, that of apprehending the international terrorist, the successor of Carlos, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq! He has been considered by the FBI as a "valuable catch" who can be traded in the political slave trade market and offered to the black market merchants in Israel. It would not be surprising if the United States were to deduct "his price" from the U.S. aid to Israel for 1996. However, Israel not only wants to buy Abu-Marzuq for nothing but is also complaining and weeping that it has more right to him than the United States, because it claims that he is the financier and the principal figure behind the military operations against its army and citizens.

This method of cheap "trading" that the United States is practicing and the "black deals" game that Israel is playing indicate very clearly the sordidness of the game between the two sides. Both of them want the head of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] by all means and for free. Israel, which tested the bitterness of its conflict with Hamas throughout the intifadah and has forgotten to take a second look at the pictures of its dead citizens in buses and the corpses of its soldiers in Nabulus, Hebron, and Gaza and those of the rabble settlers on the West Bank hilltops, should think a thousand times before embarking on this extradition step. This is because it knows very well that Hamas will not remain idle and will not bow its head, but will retaliate with all its power, of which Israel and the United States are aware. The Israel will not have the right to weep, complain, and beseech the United Nations and the international community. Abu-Marzuq is not a commodity that can be sold and bought in the U.S.-Israeli market. If the United States dares to decide to hand Abu-Marzuq over to Israel or put him on trial, it will be cutting its own throat because of its stupidity and recklessness. Just like Israel, the United States might have a weak memory and forget that the Palestinian people have always viewed them not only as a relentless enemy, but "enemy number one," who wants to crush the dignity of the Arab and Islamic nation and push its nose in the dirt.

Gazans Demonstrate for Abu-Marzuq's Release

TA0408170795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gaza, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists this afternoon demonstrated against the detention of their political leader, Musa Abu-Marzuq, who is being held by the United States.

The Hamas protesters burned Israeli and American flags, and threw leaflets into the air which contained warnings to the United States. The pamphlet said if Abu-Marzuq is tried or extradited to Israel, American interests in the Middle East and the rest of the world would be exposed to the anger of Arab and Islamic masses.

Abu-Marzuq was arrested two weeks ago at New York's Kennedy International Airport. Israel has since issued a warrant for his arrest, and is now putting together a request for his extradition.

U.S. Rejects Extradiction of Abu-Marzuq to Israel

MM0708113095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab and Muhammad Sadiq: "'Arafat Receives U.S. Promise Not To Hand Over Abu-Marzuq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, Washington — Authoritative Palestinian sources have said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has received assurances from U.S. State Department officials that Washington will not hand over Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, who was arrested on 25 July on charges of violating U.S. immigration laws.

The sources said that the day before yesterday 'Arafat contacted a senior U.S. official, believed to be Dennis Ross, coordinator of Middle Eastern affairs, and that this official stressed that Washington has no intention of handing over Abu-Marzuq to Israel. [passage omitted]

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Hamas Spokesman on Abu-Marzuq's Arrest, Jerusalem

NC0608194095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what measures do you plan to take to secure the release of Dr. Abu-Marzuq?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Since Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq's arrest on 25 July, Hamas—the Islamic Resistance Movement—has not ceased attempting to activate all methods that could lead to the release of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. These include media, political, and popular moves, as well as moves within the United States. We ask God Almighty to secure the release of our brother Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq as soon as possible, God willing.

[Correspondent] The Hamas masses in Gaza have demonstrated in protest of the arrest of Dr. Abu-Marzuq. What message did this demonstration seek to convey?

[Ghawshah] The demonstration's message was to give a popular dimension to the other moves. In addition to the statements, memorandums, mediations, and messages, it was necessary to undertake a popular move now, even a partial one. The United States Administration must know that the Palestinian people will step up their moves if it does not release Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] On the so-called anniversary of the destruction of the temple, the Zionist authorities have given permission to Jews to visit and desecrate the al-Aqsa Mosque. How do you explain this Zionist decision?

[Ghawshah] This decision is very grave because of its implications. This decision gives legitimacy to the Zionist hordes to storm al-Aqsa Mosque. Therefore, on this day Palestinians everywhere must be alert to what is happening in al-Aqsa Mosque Square, which has an area of 150 donums. There are initial reports that the Zionist police and army have closed the roads to prevent the Muslims from protecting their mosque. This step comes as the Palestine side is holding negotiations with the Jewish side, whether in Elat, Taba, or elsewhere, and attention is being diverted from this grave plan. The attention of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation are being diverted to the issues of the negotiations and the so-called second phase of the Oslo accord. At the same time, fanatic Zionist hordes are trying to storm al-Aqsa Mosque. The battle of al-Aqsa Mosque must be the battle of Muslims everywhere.

[Correspondent] The Zionist entity has announced that it will link a number of East Jerusalem villages to Ramallah. What does this mean and how can it be confronted?

[Ghawshah] The reports coming from inside say the so-called redeployment in the West Bank will take the form of isolated, separated cantons. In the Jerusalem area, there is a clear tendency to isolate the Palestinian quarters from each other. The policy is the same in the West Bank. The attempt to link some villages in Jerusalem to Ramallah and al-Birah aims to weaken the Palestinian presence in the Jerusalem area. The Palestinian population in East Jerusalem is approximately 160,000 and there is intent to reduce this number to create a Jewish majority in the Jerusalem area. Therefore, this is considered a step in the plot to Judaize all of East and West Jerusalem.

[Correspondent] We thank Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas—the Islamic Resistance Movement, for this important and useful interview.

[Ghawshah] May God bless you.

'Arafat Spokesman Condemns Mosque Decision

JN0608125495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has addressed urgent messages to the kings and presidents of Arab and foreign states, urging them to shoulder their responsibilities regarding the Israeli settlers' trespasses at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat and media spokesman for him, has denounced the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice' decision to allow settlers to be present at the squares of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine, Kanafani said that this measure contravenes international laws and norms and will exacerbate the situation in the holy city as a result of the excesses and provocations carried out by Israeli extremists.

Kanafani urged the Israeli Government to ensure the freedom of worship for Palestinians, which has a peculiarity of its own, and to safeguard the sanctity of holy shrines.

For his part, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has condemned the transgressions against the holy al-Aqsa Mosque by the so-called Temple Mount Faithful.

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In a statement to Voice of Palestine, Abu-Rudaynah held the Israeli Government fully responsible for the consequences of the settlers' attempts to enter the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. He described as insufficient the Israeli measures to curb settlers. He added that the lack of seriousness on the Israeli Government's part to curb Israeli transgressions is what prompted the court to issue a decision allowing settlers to enter the mosque.

Official Condemns Israeli Court Ruling on Mosque

NC0408212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority, warned that Jews will only visit al-Aqsa Mosque over Palestinians' dead bodies.

He said this in response to the 2 August Israeli higher court ruling allowing Jews to visit the mosque on 9 August.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published on 5 August, al-Husayni said the ruling gave Jews a legal right to visit the mosque. He remarked that because of this, they will pray there and then call for its division; this happened in Hebron's al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

He said he believed this could pave the way to destroy the third holiest shrine and build an alleged temple in its place. This is favored by particular Jewish organizations, he asserted.

He added that even though there is agreement on not putting Jerusalem on the negotiating table now, the Israelis by this ruling are placing obstacles to postponing negotiations over Jerusalem [sentence as received]. He noted the need to start discussing Jerusalem immediately.

Ministry Urges Arabs To Condemn Israeli Decision

JN0508151295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry has urged citizens to go to the holy al-Aqsa Mosque tomorrow to practice their natural right of performing their religious rites there.

In a statement issued today, the Ministry asked the Arab world—people and governments—to condemn the Israeli court ruling which allows the settlers to desecrate the holy al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Ministry described the Israeli decision as an aggressive action that threatens the peace process.

The Israeli court has allowed the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque and perform prayers there.

PA Closes 2 Fundamentalist Newspapers in Gaza

NC0608081995 Paris AFP in English 0723 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 6 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority [PA] closed down two Moslem fundamentalist newspapers in a new crackdown on the opposition press, journalists said Sunday [6 August].

Employees arrived at the Gaza City offices of AL-WATAN and AL-ISTIQLAL on Sunday to find "closed until further notice" plastered over the doors which have been sealed. The official notices included the warning "Entry forbidden by law".

AL-WATAN director Razi Hamad said the authority took offence at an article in Thursday's edition saying 'Arafat had sold photographs of his daughter Zahwah to a French company for 1.3 million dollars. The article was headlined: "Zahwah, a French Company Bought the Name," and quoted a report in the London INDEPENDENT newspaper. The baby was born in Paris last month, but no photographs have been released to the press.

Palestinian attorney general Khalid Al-Qidwah told AFP: "They violated the press law and wrote articles offensive to a friendly country." "They have gone beyond the limits of democracy and press freedom." He refused to be specific.

The press law, published last month, gives the Authority wide powers to curtail press freedom.

The closures came after Gaza police on Saturday called in for questioning the editors of AL-WATAN, the weekly publication of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and AL-ISTIQLAL, the paper of the Islamic Jihad group. Both men were released after several hours. It was the second time both weeklies have been shut since the authority took over in May 1994.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad spearhead armed resistance to Israeli occupation and the PLO autonomy agreement with Israel.

Police Question Gaza Islamic Papers Editors

TA0608052095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian police have taken in for questioning 'Imad al-Faluji, the editor of AL-WATAN, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]

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newspaper in Gaza, and 'Ala' al- Saftawi, the editor of an Islamic Jihad paper. Al-Saftawi said on his release that he was questioned about certain articles published in his newspaper. Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad violently oppose peace with Israel.

Gaza Residents Polled on Ramat Gan Bus Bombing

TA0408172895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A public opinion poll conducted in the Gaza Strip shows that 82 percent of the strip's residents believe that the bus bombing in Ramat Gan did not promote the peace process. Ninety percent of the residents believe that this operation did not increase Palestinian support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which assumed responsibility for the operation. The poll also shows that 87 percent of Gaza Strip residents believe that terrorist operations against Israel ultimately cause economic difficulties for them.

Hamas Urges Resistance 'by All Possible Means'

MM0408180995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Denies Plan for Reconciliation with the Authority and Accuses 'Arafat of Trying To Undermine Its Reputation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jordan, has denied that his movement put forward a plan for reconciliation with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Nazzal said: "That was a plan submitted by some mediators in the Gaza Strip who were trying to mediate between the two sides over the past months following the deterioration of relations between them. [no end-quotes as published]

Nazzal added that "the Hamas leadership rejected the plan and made fundamental criticisms of it when it was submitted to it, including observations regarding the suspension of military action." Nazzal did not rule out the possibility that the Authority was behind the leakage of that plan.

Nazzal again denied differences between the internal and external leadership of Hamas. He said that "the issue of internal and external [leadership] is an issue continually raised by the Authority in an attempt to show that there are differences in the Hamas ranks, but there are no political differences in the movement's ranks. There are points of view which may agree or disagree depending on the political concepts."

Nazzal emphasized that Hamas had made no decision to stop military action and that, if there were any party or individual who agreed with the Authority on this matter, their names should be announced.

On the absence of Hamas military operations and whether that had anything to do with an implicit agreement with the Authority to give it a chance to reach agreement with Israel, Nazzal said: "The absence of operations is not a result of an agreement between Hamas and the Authority. It is just that certain circumstances and factors which make implementation of military operations in the Gaza Strip [sentence unfinished as published]. And what applies to the Gaza Strip also applies to the rest of Palestine."

On responsibility for the suicide operation in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, Nazzal said: "I cannot confirm or deny Hamas responsibility for that operation. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions are the party qualified to claim responsibility for any operation."

He added: "We have seen the statement distributed in the name of al-Qassam in Hebron claiming responsibility for that operation, but I have not had a chance yet to verify the authenticity of the statement and the extent of the al-Qassam Battalions' responsibility. I do not believe that responsibility for that operation will remain ambiguous. The facts will certainly become clear ultimately."

Asked if Hamas was adopting a new strategy of not announcing the operations it carries out, Nazzal said: "When no party claims responsibility for the operation and the person who has carried it out is not named, as used to happen in the past, this causes rumors and a variety of analyses.

"In my view, knowing which party carried out the operation is not as important as the fact that an operation was carried out in the heart of Tel Aviv under strict security measures and against a background of assertions that the resistance movements would be destroyed."

Nazzal added that "Hamas urges continuation of the resistance against the occupation by all possible means and ways, and it believes that only resistance can defeat the occupation. Facts have proved that the negotiation process which began in Madrid has entrenched and consolidated the occupation of our territory."

In reaction to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's charge that Hamas was coordinating with the Israeli Right in its military operations, Nazzal said: "That is an attempt to tarnish the bright image of Hamas established on the ground and in reality. I believe that our Palestinian people know that these are unfounded

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and tendentious rumors. We see the Right and the Left in Israel as two sides of the same coin and believe that the difference between them is over ways of fighting our people's right to their territory and their right to exist."

Commenting on the Palestinian Authority's call on Washington to deport Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, whose detention has been extended for another week, Nazzal said: "I believe that Dr. Abu-Marzuq's problem lies not in the destination he would choose but rather in his remaining in American prisons. We support any call for his release, regardless of any other consideration."

Asked about the reasons which prompted Dr. Abu-Marzuq to go to the United States after being deported by the Jordanian authorities, Nazzal replied: "Dr. Abu-Marzuq's decision to travel to the United States was a move and an assessment which we should not dwell on, because he is now in detention and it is no use going back and talking about the reasons and justifications for his going there. We should all make efforts for his release."

The Hamas official added: "We believe that postponement of the trial means procrastination by the U.S. Administration and, to us, it means giving the Zionist entity the chance to complete the preparation of documents pertaining to the case of Dr. Abu-Marzuq."

He stressed that Hamas "is now studying all possibilities and all possible options and is making great efforts at the political, diplomatic, popular, and information levels for the release of Abu- Marzuq." Asked if Hamas had had contacts with the U.S. embassy in the course of its efforts for the release of Abu-Marzuq, he replied: "A memorandum has been handed to the U.S. embassies in Amman and other capitals, and contacts are under way through other parties (he refused to name them but said that they were official Arab and foreign parties) in an attempt to find a solution, particularly as we believe that the case is political, not judicial, in the sense that it can be resolved politically." On the prospects regarding the Abu-Marzuq case, he said: "We have received no answers yet, and no specific possibility has been suggested to us yet."

'Arafat, Cabinet Discuss Negotiations With Israel

JN0508123795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1137 GMT 5 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority held its weekly session under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidency in Gaza today. The session was concluded a short while ago.

After the session, Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the session was largely devoted to discussions on the ongoing Palestinian—Israeli negotiations to evaluate them.

Sports and Youth Minister Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi indicated that President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will discuss in their next meeting, which is likely to be held in the city of Taba on Monday [7 August], the remaining bones of contention between the two sides, particularly with regard to the issue of redeployment on the West Bank, the water issue, and the completion of the transfer of civil powers to the National Authority.

Dr. 'Urayqat underlined the need for a specific timetable for redeployment on the West Bank. He noted that redeployment in unpopulated areas is still an outstanding issue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He stressed the need to dismantle settlements, particularly those located in the city of Hebron. He also demanded a timetable for the release of all the Palestinian prisoners and detainees held in Israeli jails.

Ministers Council Views Negotiations 'Positively'

JN0508193695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority's Council of Ministers held its weekly session today under President Yasir 'Arafat. The Council of Ministers viewed positively the negotiations with the Israeli side over the past week on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Elat last week were serious and intensive. He said the negotiations tackled the redeployment of the occupation forces outside the populated regions as a prelude to the holding of legislative elections and completing the redeployment after installing the elected council. The Israeli Army will then withdraw to specific military locations.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Palestinian side negotiated with the Israeli side on the transfer of civilian authorities, dissolving the occupation's civil administration, and the Palestinian security forces' assumption of their full responsibilities in the populated regions in the first phase of the redeployment of the occupation army.

'Abd-al-Rahim further noted that President Yasir 'Arafat asserted in his assessment that the gap remains between the two sides on determining the

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points of reference that relate to finding acceptable implementation mechanisms, the timetable of the full redeployment after the Palestinian elections are held, as well as the arrangements related to security issues, the arrangements related to the city of Hebron, the water issue, and the participation of Jerusalemites in the elections. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim confirmed that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba on Monday [7 August] to discuss the obstacles preventing an agreement on the transitional phase.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said President Yasir 'Arafat has instructed the negotiating team to work out all issues related to the transitional phase as part of the transitional agreement, secure Palestinian national water rights, and consider the transitional agreement the basis that will supersede previous temporary agreements. President 'Arafat also stressed the need for the Palestinian national security forces to assume all domains of security and public order of the Palestinian people and to hold the elections after the redeployment of the occupation forces outside the populated regions.

The National Authority's Council of Ministers also discussed settler provocations and attacks in the West Bank, blaming the Israeli Government and occupation army for the continuation of these attacks. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council of Ministers condemned the Israeli Supreme Court decision allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque. He said Jerusalem, in its Islamic and Christian shrines, is occupied territory and no Israeli court has the right to determine its status. The secretary general of the Presidency said the Council of Ministers also discussed the issue of state property and awqaf and asked the committee formed for this purpose to quickly present its proposals to the council regarding reassessing the rent of this property. The council also discussed many other important political and administrative issues.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Progress in Elat Talks; Peres-'Arafat Agenda Noted

TA0408182195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Text] The settlers' demonstrations this week caused an acceleration of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and brought about progress in many clauses of the agreement. This was reported today by the heads of the Israeli delegation upon their return from Elat at the end of a week of talks. Next Monday [7 August], Peres and 'Arafat will meet in order to settle some crucial differences of opinion. Meanwhile, moderate settlers have created ties with the Palestinians in order to allow for cooperation during the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details:

[Begin Sukenik recording] Despite everything, it appears that the interim agreement in the West Bank is being consolidated. Uri Savir, the head of the Israeli delegation, informed his interlocutors that if they indeed want to hold elections in the territories by December, the agreement must be signed this month.

On the non-security level there is a surprise: according to the agreement, Israel will transfer to the Palestinians all civilian powers in their residential areas in Judaea and Samaria, 40 powers altogether.

In the security sphere progress is more difficult. However, it has been concluded — and this too is something new — that except for Hebron, the IDF will withdraw from all West Bank cities, including Bethlehem and Ramallah, by the end of the year.

There are quite a few serious differences of opinion still to be ironed out, and the Peres-'Arafat summit agenda is likely to deal with the following issues:

— The Palestinian objection to requiring an IDF permission for any Palestinian police movement in the rural areas.

— The Palestinian demand for a more extensive IDF withdrawal from Hebron.

— A Palestinian demand for determining a timetable for the continuation of the IDF withdrawal after elections in the territories.

— The argument over the control of Rachel's Tomb.

— The sharp controversy over the water distribution in the West Bank.

The Palestinians reported that groups of what they term moderate settlers have launched secret negotiations with them over future cooperation.

Next week the negotiations will continue in Elat. The number of participants will be halved in order to accelerate the talks. [end recording]

Taba Meeting May Mark Start of Marathon Talks

TA0608065995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will decide during their talks tomorrow in Taba whether to hold nonstop talks or a series of meetings to solve outstanding

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disagreements on expanding Palestinian autonomy, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Some officials insist that a decision in principle for marathon talks has already been reached, but it remains unclear whether the session in Taba tomorrow will be the start of such negotiations.

"The two of us will meet as often as needed," Peres told the POST last night. But he denied a decision had already been reached for secluded Camp-David style talks in Taba.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office refused to comment.

However, an informed source close to the negotiations told the POST that 'Arafat and Peres agreed a few days ago to negotiate continuously until an interim agreement on expanding self-rule in the territories is reached.

"Peres and 'Arafat may sit together in Taba for three or four days. If they do so, they will make quick progress. There has not yet been a decision on continuous talks in Taba. They will take it one day at a time," the source said.

According to sources, the two agreed that only top aides from both sides would join them and shuttle instructions to the middle-level negotiators in Elat dealing with the details of the accord.

The idea to accelerate the negotiations came during a dinner Wednesday night in Gaza, which was attended by 'Arafat, at the home of UN Coordinator for the Territories, Terje Larsen. US ambassador Martin Indyk, US Consul-General Ed Abington, and Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn also attended the dinner.

When 'Arafat consented to the idea of round-the-clock talks, two phone conversations were held that evening with Peres. It is believed that Peres would have only given his consent to the idea after consulting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The sides thought of excluding aides from the talks, but in the end it was decided that chief negotiator Uri Savir and Ahmad Quray' must participate, and perhaps some other top aides.

Some officials believe the need for accelerated talks has gained fresh urgency due to the settler protests. Also, little progress was made during talks in Elat last week.

Rabin meanwhile met for two hours with settler leaders on Friday. They agreed to continue their dialogue next week despite plans for more settler protests. Some settlement leaders told Rabin they wanted limits put on the types of weapons Palestinian policemen would carry. Others called on Rabin to accept the idea of a referendum prior to an accord, something which the premier rejects.

However, Rabin did say he believed that Palestinian policemen who wanted to travel between Palestinian villages in the territories must do so in coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Furthermore, he said he did not believe Palestinian civil police should be allowed to be deployed in villages along main roads in the territories where Israelis travel.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 August in a pool report on pages A1 and A2 notes that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin categorically rejected the demand made by representatives of the settlers for a national referendum on the interim accord with the Palestinians. At a meeting with settler officials on 4 August, Rabin justified his refusal by saying that the Labor platform in the last elections advocated territorial compromise on the West Bank. Therefore, a government elected on the basis of this platform has a popular mandate to sign an interim agreement with the Palestinians, and there is no reason whatsoever to hold a national referendum. This is contrary to the Golan Heights, Rabin explained, in reference to which Labor has committed itself to holding a national referendum on any agreement with the Syrians that calls for a significant withdrawal from the Golan, because such a withdrawal could be seen as contravening Labor's pre-election platform."]

Meanwhile, 73 percent of the public say the government must hold a referendum regarding implementation of the accords with the Palestinians before going any further in the peace process, according to a Dahaf poll conducted for a group of some 20 mayors who back such a referendum.

The mayors, who claim their group represents various sides of the political spectrum, met Friday in Herzliyya.

They said the question posed in the poll read: "Must the government hold a referendum regarding the continued implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians before proceeding with the peace process?" A total of 26% of those polled said the government did not have to hold such a referendum, while 1% did not respond.

A second question asked whether those polled would participate in a referendum "if the government does not hold a referendum regarding the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians, and such a referendum is held by a public group whose members represent the entire political spectrum, and is overseen by a retired judge and conducted under conditions of a national referendum." Forty-seven percent said they would definitely participate, 23% said they thought they

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would, 20% said they definitely would not, 9% thought they would not, and 1% did not respond.

The poll was conducted last Tuesday and Wednesday, and included 501 people with a 4% margin of error.

Peres May Propose Signing Agreement by Mid-Sep

TA0708082795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 95 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a bid to advance the negotiations and enable the signing of the interim agreement no later than mid-September the Israeli delegation and its Palestinian counterpart may agree to sign the agreement even if differences remain unsettled on several key issues, such as the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in Hebron and control over the water sources. Discussion of these issues would continue and be finalized after the signing of the agreement, a senior political source said yesterday.

The source added that in the meeting scheduled for 1800 today at the Hilton Taba Hotel, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres may propose to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to finalize most of the clauses of the agreement by the end of August or early September and sign it no later than mid-September. Deliberations would continue on the unresolved issues, and once they are finalized they would be included in a special appendix which would be signed separately but would be an inseparable part of the agreement.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held consultations in his office about the continuation of the negotiations in anticipation of the Peres-'Arafat meeting. In addition to Peres and Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Israeli delegation, the session was also attended by Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser; Generals 'Uzi Dayan and Oren Shahor; and others.

It has been learned from the participants that wide gaps remain on some of the security issues, while the questions of the water sources, the electricity grid, and control over Rachel's Tomb remain in dispute.

Israeli sources believe the Palestinians have slowed down the pace of the negotiations because the target date set for the self-rule council elections was put off from September 1995 to January 1996, which allows them more time to bargain.

[In a similar report on page A5, the same correspondent adds that "Israeli sources believe the Palestinians have concluded that the interim agreement may remain in effect beyond 1999, the date stipulated in the Oslo agreement. Therefore, they are seeking to attain as many achievements as possible in these negotiations. The Palestinians believe the interim agreement could determine the nature of the permanent arrangements, and that is why they are prone to insist 'on every minute detail in the negotiations.' They fear the Likud will rise to power in 1996 and a freeze might ensue on contacts between the sides."]

PA Officials, Israeli Minister View Mutual Requests

TA0608154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khalid al-Qidrah, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] prosecutor general, said that the PA is not refusing to hand over suspected murderers to Israel. He said, however, that the requests conveyed so far have been incomplete and have not met the requirements of the Cairo agreement. Al-Qidrah's remarks were made following a meeting between him and Furayh Abu-Middayn, the PA's official in charge of judicial affairs, and Justice Minister David Liba'i.

Justice Minister Liba'i said there is a dispute over the interpretation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. Al-Qidrah and Abu-Middayn told Minister Liba'i that Israel must put on trial Avraham Rahmani, who they said, participated in the murder of Islamic Jihad activist Hani 'Abid. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem notes that no details of Rahmani's complicity were passed along. Liba'i promised to look into the PA's request.

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Algeria

Truck Bomb Attack Kills 'at Least' 11

LD0708091595 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] News of an explosion in Algeria yesterday: This morning the LIBERTE and EL WATAN papers report a truck bomb attack which happened yesterday afternoon in Boufarik, 30 km south of Algiers. At least 11 people were killed when the truck exploded. According to LIBERTE, 11 people were killed and at least 33 injured. EL WATAN speaks of 12 dead and about 15 injured, 11 of whom are seriously hurt. The explosion took place on the highway at the eastern entrance to Boufarik. It blasted several passing vehicles.

Security Forces Kill 15 'Terrorists'

LD0508191395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security services issued a statement today noting that their forces killed 15 terrorists during search operations they began mounting on Wednesday [2 August] in several regions of the homeland.

The statement adds that the security forces also recovered several automatic pistols and communications equipment.

FIS Bulletin Accuses GIA of 'Deviation'

MM0408113995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "FIS Accuses GIA of Turning the Struggle Against the Algerian People"; all quotemarks as published]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Washington, AL-HAYAH — The EL RIBAT bulletin, published by "supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Europe," has accused the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] of deviation and of turning the struggle against the Algerian regime into a struggle against a sector of the population.

The bulletin, distributed yesterday, said that "many supporters of the FIS and jihad in Algeria are wondering about the GIA and trying to know it, know its policy, and find out the truth about the excesses attributed to it, which harm the reputation of the mujahidin in Algeria."

It added: "We must point out that excesses might occur in the course of the jihad without undermining or spoiling it, provided they are disavowed and not repeated... but what the Shari'ah and reason do not accept is deviation becoming the master of the situation and the reality, and that is what certain armed groups claiming to belong to the GIA do." People interested in the progress of the Algerian jihad have noticed some deviation which made them fear for its fate and the fate of the blood of the martyrs. That deviation was evident in several aspects, of which we mention the following:

1. The conflicting GIA statements have made it difficult to know what is authentic and what is not. In the summer of last year EL ANSAR said that the announcement of the formation of a government of orthodox caliphs was imminent. A statement was issued confirming that, but then that was quickly denied and attributed to Algerian intelligence. What is the secret behind that?

2. The GIA has turned the struggle against the despotic regime into a struggle against a sector of the Algerian population. That was evident in the statement addressed to the owners of gas stations and then the burning of such stations and the burning of schools and the killing of teachers and artists who were not outwardly antagonistic to the Islamic plan, even though they might bear some guilt. The righteous predecessors did not kill people for violations they committed but left the doors for repentence and response to the call open to the people.

3. What made the situation worse were the incidents of the capture of women and the fatwa of the so-called Abu-Qatadah of EL ANSAR permitting the killing of women, without any basis in the Shari'ah or in the prophet's teachings or actions of his companions and followers, other than reciprocal treatment....

4. The indiscriminate attacks on foreigners regardless of their race, nationality, age, and work were against the will of God."

In conclusion, it said: "These actions by the GIA have united the enemies against the jihad and the mujahidin.... We realize that our words here will not be heeded by the GIA because the trend led by Abu-Qatadah and Abu-Mus'ab is one of "jurisprudence looking for some reality." As for us, "we are faced with a reality and are trying to find a jurisprudence for it emanating from God's book and from the teachings of our prophet and the efforts of the ulema without concession and without arrogance." [passage omitted]

Third Party Accepts Dialogue With Zeroual

LD0608011995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Party of Solidarity and Development [PNSD] has announced that it will take part in the meeting called by President Liamine Zeroual for 12 August with leaders of a number of

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political parties, associations, and national figures with a view to holding consultations on the setting up of a commission in charge of monitoring the presidential elections.

Foreign Minister on Sifi Visit to Niger, Mali

LD0408201895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The most important event that distinguished the end of the week was the friendship and working visit paid by the Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to the republics of Niger and Mali. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who accompanied the prime minister, makes an appraisal of the results of these visits to our radio correspondent:

[Begin Dembri recording] This visit has a special significance because first it was made within the framework of the continued consultation between us and the sub-Saharan states. As you know, Algeria now has a line of cooperation and coordination with the Niger and Mali, especially regarding the issues that exist to the north of these two countries. Naturally in this regard we are currently undertaking mediation between the brothers in the north of Mali and in the north of Niger in order that civilian peace can be restored to these two countries. [passage omitted]

Regarding bilateral relations, there is a vast scope for cooperation in sectors which we should inevitably place in the interest of joint development — agriculture, health, trade. [passage omitted] I believe that the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the sub-Saharan states on 16 and 17 August will allow us to take into account everything we have achieved in Niger and Mali. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Zeroual Stresses Economic Restructuring

LD0608233295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 95

[Address by President Liamine Zeroual at Council of Ministers meeting on 6 August — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The restructuring of the national economy, which we have assessed, is a vast operation and indeed puts the country's future in the balance. In view of its importance, and before I give you my observations and advice on the current management of this operation, I would like to remind you of its main objectives. Thus, I reaffirm that the restructuring of our national economy is not an endeavor of hope from abroad [as heard] nor is it a way out to conceal real problems. The restructuring of our national economy is required by our present economic reality which cannot be ignored if examined objectively.

This restructuring of our national economy is also and above all inevitable for our future challenges. Indeed, Algeria followed a path of development which was undeniably fruitful. However, this also revealed the shortcomings we all know. Algeria tried to introduce reforms, but they remained incomplete because the fears of the moment overshadowed the real dangers even when these were clearly visible. Everybody knows the consequences.

Within a few years thousands of jobs were lost and it was impossible to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. At the same time, Algeria's population continued to increase. Moreover, the burden of the loans, which were taken as an easy way out, became heavier and started to threaten the country with suffocation.

It is necessary to remind the people of these facts when it is a matter of deciding on current requirements. Reminding the people of these facts is also a moral duty, especially when it is about facing the challenges of the future. It is also necessary to remind the people of these facts when we are concerned with intensifying the efforts currently being made to implement the economic restructuring.

Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, economic restructuring cannot be limited only to structural changes and legislative reforms. It is true that these measures are a necessary path, and I hail the first results achieved by the government in this area. However, in order to make it match our main and real objectives, economic restructuring requires much more than this. This operation will remain insufficient and incomplete if it does not really take into account three main factors. These are: the lessons of the recent past, the current facts, and the requirements of the future. In this respect, I would like to remind you of some of the advice I already gave you, and I expect each one of you to be fully committed to following it.

I will start first with the lessons which must be learned from the past:

1. The restructuring of the enterprises and the performance contracts are not only an objective but must also be embodied through improvements in management and production.

Efforts must be made to prevent these actions, aimed at revitalizing the economy, from being used as a cover for a continuous deterioration of productivity, as was the case last year in the industrial sector. In this respect, I would like to see an end to all the hesitations and to see managers devote their utmost attention to this point.

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2. We must stop implementing the economic restructuring in a fragmented manner. The reform of the enterprises must be accompanied by real reforms in the financial sector. Therefore the government program on banks, insurance companies, and the savings fund must be reactivated and implemented, otherwise the banking administration, which is the real incentive for investments and the effective manager of public capital, will become a factor of paralysis. Moreover, the administration must adapt its methods to achieve the efficiency required today.

3. In addition to these tasks which the managers will be asked to carry out, the state must make its important contribution by speeding up the preparation of the necessary legislative texts and regulations.

Likewise, and in the interest of the private and public operators, the government must endeavor to set up, as soon as possible, the Council of Competition, which has been delayed, and also the Council of Privatization, the Evaluation Commission, and the Control Commission mentioned in the Privatization Law. All these bodies must become operational before the end of this year.

I have said that in addition to the lessons of the past, we must also take into account the present facts. This also requires great efforts. In the first instance, economic restructuring is considered a new situation which the citizens must understand to enable them to respond to it fully, especially as unknown individuals are hoping to use this change to destabilize the country. Therefore great efforts must be made to explain and give clarifications. I expect all officials to make such efforts continuously.

The program of the three reforms which must be implemented will have to be explained to the citizens, and increases in the prices of goods and services, when they are necessary, will also have to be announced and explained to the consumers.

In the second instance, the state has three commitments toward the workers: frankness, social justice, and continuity. It is true that the social consultations have improved thanks to their joint management by the state and its social partners, namely the trade unions and the employers. However, we must admit that these consultations have not borne all their fruits. In this respect I expect the government and officials in the economic sector to show greater frankness in the social consultations. This will help dispel the fears which are often unjustified; and it will also highlight what is really necessary and what is possible.

Algerian workers have and are still clearly proving their nationalism and their consideration, but we must also realize that their trust has been shaken by some past practices. We must therefore work courageously to gain more trust from our brother workers in order to serve one goal, namely the national interest.

Still about this trust, I insist on proper practice of social justice in the management of the repercussions of the economic reforms. When the dismissal of workers becomes inevitable, this operation must be fair and not based on favoritism. Moreover, the social compensations stipulated by the law must be programed before the workers are dismissed and must be paid at the right time.

The continuity in the management of the social consultations is also an important factor which will help gain the trust of the workers and the citizens. I again insist on the need to agree with the workers only about what can really be achieved.

I also insist on the need for continuity in the social dialogue, particularly with regard to the implementation of what has already been agreed upon. Therefore the government and managers must devote greater attention to this matter.

In the third instance, I urge the government, when it is in charge of the current facts [as heard], to make sure that the sacrifices imposed by the economic crisis are shared fairly. We must not forget that Algeria has not yet overcome this crisis. In this respect, the rules governing the market economy must be strictly implemented in order to prevent or suppress all illicit gains in the context of the current reforms.

The inland revenue and the judiciary will also have to adapt in order to ensure effective tax and duty collection, which is the real basis of social justice in a market economy system.

Any effective economic restructuring must rely on specific tools and must define goals for itself. In this context, we cannot conceal the shortcomings which exist and which must be overcome. First, the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the development of industry must be completed as soon as possible. We draw our choices and priorities from this strategy.

This subject has been examined and I expect the government to put forward this strategy by the end of this year.

Second, last year I asked that the reorganization of the National Planning Council be examined and implemented, but no progress has been achieved in the matter despite the fact that this institution is now more necessary than ever before for the preparation and follow-up

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of all strategies of economic development in the country. I expect the National Planning Council to be modernized by the end of the year.

Third and last, one of the objectives of economic restructuring is to increase our revenue in hard currency. The government's program of action includes the setting up of an entire structure for the promotion of our non-hydrocarbon exports, the introduction of a special program for the creation of an institution which will guarantee loans for exports, and also banking mechanisms to boost our exports. I expect the government to act quickly and complete all these mechanisms before the end of this year.

In addition to these directives, to which I attach great importance and on which I will expect monthly assessments from now on, I would like to conclude by adding the following remarks. First I would like to say that the path of restructuring our national economy which we have embarked upon is necessary and has no alternative. Our measures are extremely important and will not allow for contradictory statements. If anybody has an alternative to this approach, let them come forward and present it to the Algerian people.

I must add that time for Algeria counts more than liquidities for the revitalization of national development. Any delay in the implementation of economic restructuring will have dire consequences for the deficit that must be absorbed and which affects our needs in all areas. These needs are increasing continously and any failure to implement our program is unacceptable.

Finally, I have always said with deep conviction that Algeria has the right to look forward to great aspirations which it has the means of achieving. Thus I am expressing the distinct feeling of our citizens who have made great sacrifices in order to recover their freedom and who have always made enormous efforts to ensure the launch of our national development. The economic reforms upon which our country has embarked fall in the context of these sacrifices and experience [as heard].

The determination and rigor of all officials combined with the spirit of sacrifice and clear-sightedness of the citizens are the only way which will make economic restructuring possible by embodying the legitimate aspirations of the people.

Envoy Criticizes Amnesty International

LD0608191695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian ambassador in London has expressed his astonishment that Amnesty International published a report on human rights in Algeria before sending letters on the matter to the parties concerned.

The Algerian diplomat said in an interview with APS that with such actions the secretariat of Amnesty International is aiming at gaining media prominence rather than seriously working for the improvement of human rights in the world.

After acknowledging the difficult security situation in the country, the Algerian ambassador in London stressed that the government has promised to continue cooperating with governmental as well as non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights. In this respect, the ambassador pointed out that Amnesty International visited Algeria several times in the past few months.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on People's Assembly Elections

NC0608212295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the coming People's Assembly elections will be held in a sound democratic atmosphere and that they will be free and fair and no meddling or tampering will be allowed.

In an interview to be published in the 7 August issue of the newspaper MAYU, organ of the National Democratic Party [NDP], President Mubarak said his goal remains giving each citizen the right to choose who will speak on his behalf. Competition will be free and fair among all parties and candidates. Whoever is elected by the complete freewill of the people deserves to represent them.

President Mubarak stated that the elections will be free because this is the backbone of a sound democratic regime, something that we all desire and that we support and promote with all means.

Asked whether his leadership of the NDP gives an edge to the NDP in these elections, President Mubarak said: My leadership of the NDP means I believe that the NDP's general policies and positions on domestic and foreign issues serve the masses' interests for which I greatly care. This does not conflict with my being the president of all Egyptians. When I make a decision or approve a particular plan, my first and foremost goal is the interest of the Egyptian citizen.

President Mubarak affirmed that there is no difference between NDP members and others. He said: When I visit the citizens, I inquire about them as Egyptians. I do

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not consider their party affiliation. I am the president of all Egyptians. They are equal. I work and make efforts for all of them.

President Mubarak continued: Therefore, I welcome all the elections' potential winners, regardless of their affiliations, because this is the will of the people. I respect this will and make it a priority.

Referring to the Arab situation and Egypt's vanguard role in achieving Arab cooperation, rallying the ranks, and repairing the fragmentation caused by the 1990 Gulf crisis, President Mubarak said: We are sparing no effort in this area, particularly as today we receive dear brother [United Arab Emirates President] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, who is always welcome in Egypt.

Regarding Sudan, President Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's concern for the fraternal Sudanese people, concern that stems from history and geography. The two peoples will be linked by bonds of brotherhood forever, regardless of attempts to deviate from the course of history or ignore geography. President Mubarak said: This is our firm belief and faith; however, we do not agree with the current Sudanese leadership, which is destroying the interests of the fraternal Sudanese people. He noted that the world knows the plight of the brothers in Sudan under this regime, the hardships they face, the tensions with neighboring and other countries, and other issues that have adversely affected the simple Sudanese citizen. He said: I do not belief that life in Sudan could ever be worse than it is now.

Mubarak Discusses Sudan, Peace Negotiations

NC0708054695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—Reacting to a claim by 'Umar al-Bashir when he assumed power that Egypt proposed an official be appointed as a political adviser to the Sudanese Revolution Command Council—something considered by al-Bashir as interference in Sudan's domestic affairs—President Mubarak said this was not true. He added: The Sudanese leaders proposed names and we gave them our response. We told them: This is your decision and we have nothing to do with it. We never imposed an idea on the Sudanese and we never thought to interfere in their domestic affairs. We never hesitated to give them help and aid they requested.

Asked to comment on Egypt's stance on the peace negotiations, President Mubarak said: We are closely following up these negotiations on every track, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. He pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will meet Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in Taba on Monday [7 August]. They will discuss the second stage of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: We are trying to eliminate every obstacle facing the fraternal Palestinian people's efforts to obtain their rights. He said that since it decided to defend the banner of just peace, Egypt has been working diligently to advance and support the peace process so that the comprehensive peace might prevail and the region might forge ahead with reconstruction and development.

Arab Leaders Said Mediating in Sudan Dispute

NC0408125395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There are Arab mediation efforts to contain the Egyptian-Sudanese differences. King Husayn of Jordan is due in Cairo today. The king has been playing an important role in alleviating the tension engulfing Egyptian-Sudanese relations. And United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan is making other, similar efforts.

Shaykh Zayid recently proposed to President Mubarak the formation of committees comprising experts from the two countries. These include a committee specializing in border issues, which will begin its meetings in Abu Dhabi. Legal experts from the Arab League and other competent Arab lawyers will take part in this committee's meetings. The legal advisers will act as arbitrators should Egyptian-Sudanese differences deteriorate during the meetings. The two countries' leaderships will not interfere in the meetings. A final report will be compiled by the Arab legal arbitrators, who will also be asked to study all the documents each side has. The legal arbitrators will review the results.

Shaykh Zayid presented the proposals following his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, who recently visited Gulf States, including the UAE. The Sudanese minister asked the UAE president to play a role in calming Egyptian-Sudanese differences. He expressed Sudan's confidence in Shaykh Zayid. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, some Sudanese opposition members abroad are coordinating with some European countries, the United States, and other countries with the aim of setting up sophisticated training camps in several African countries. Anti-Sudanese regime personnel will be trained in these camps so that they will be used at the appropriate time.

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An agreement has indeed been reached to establish five training camps in African states. Some 250 opposition members have already arrived in these African states.

Musa Concerned Over Situation at al-Aqsa Mosque

NC0608165995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 6 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has voiced concern over the decision of the Higher Israeli Military Court to allow Jews to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that Egypt's position is based on the importance of not infringing on the status of Jerusalem, respecting the religious shrines, and not obstructing the peace process' path by permitting such unacceptable practices.

Musa added that Egypt is holding the necessary contacts to avoid the obstacles that could come from an infringement of Jerusalem's status.

Donations for Bosnia Announced; Musa on Croatia

NC0508151195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A national campaign to collect cash donations to help the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will be organized, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said today. He added that the Egyptian Red Crescent Society will supervise the collection of the donations from its branches in Cairo, Alexandria, and other governorates. A special account at an Egyptian bank will be named to receive donations.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the current events in Krajina is another, but not the last, result of the mishandling of the Bosnian issue from the start.

Commenting on Croatia's attempt to regain Krajina, which the Serbs unilaterally declared independent, Musa said: The Serbs, due to their criminal practices and aggression against the Bosnians, have left no room to sympathize with them under any circumstance. He added that the leader of the Krajina Serbs is accused of leading an ethnic cleansing campaign against Muslims and that the Krajina Serbs were among the Serbian troops that attacked the Bihac safe area. Thus, the Croat offensive will upset the Serb separatists' plans for absolute control, he added.

MB Leader Discusses Policies, Violence, Arrests

NC0608065595 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Aug 95 pp 38-40

[Report on interview with Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Hamdi Rizq in Manfalut on 30 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rizq] What is the story behind the recent statement issued from Manfalut denying the report that you have been ousted from the Muslim Brotherhood [MB]? Why was the Manfalut statement issued, even though [MB spokesman] Ma'mun al-Hudaybi denied the report in Cairo?

Initially, the general guide denied any knowledge of the statement; however, his second son, Husayn, reminded him of it. Abu-al-Nasr then said:

[Abu-al-Nasr] Yes, the statement. The story is that a clever journalist tried to shake up the MB. The brothers had to know the denial and the truth to stay calm. Thus, when they knew the truth, everything returned to normal. If you ask Mustafa Mashhur, he will tell you that the report is baseless, that he has not become the general guide, and that I was not ousted. But things are not so simple.

[Rizq] Does not your lengthy presence here — I recall your last visit to al-Tawfiqiyah was almost a year ago when the Imbabah Prosecution Office was investigating you — show that you were really ousted?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There was no ousting or anything like that. This is what happened: I came to Manfalut, to my house and my farm. I tried to reconcile the MB's interests and mine. The brothers do not have anything to hide. If they oust me, they will say: We ousted him. If they confirm me, they will tell the whole world: We confirmed him. Our official spokesman in Cairo said the report was untrue. We added his statement to our Manfalut statement to confirm it.

[Rizq] Why then did you rush to deny it?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Should I have remained silent? I had to deny it too. These affairs go to the heart of the MB; silence is not the answer. Such reports could shake the Brotherhood from within.

[Rizq] When would a general guide be ousted? When might it be said that your presence is no longer legitimate?

[Abu-al-Nasr] It is all up to the MB's Shura Council. It makes the decisions, the changes, and the appointments. The Council has not dismissed me and I have not resigned. When it is in the MB's interest and, at the appropriate time, I will do so

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[Rizq] When?

[Abu-al-Nasr] When I feel that I cannot exercise my role as the general guide. I will decide this personally.

[Rizq] Has a general guide ever been ousted or dismissed in the past?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The issue of ousting has not been raised within the MB. The general guide is in a "spiritual" position. This means that only the Shura Council can remove or dismiss him. Only it has the right to meet and decide on removing him, and it could do so. But even this is out of the question because the position of general guide is sensitive and delicate and it is difficult to deal with it this way.

[Rizq] Does your health allow you to continue as the general guide?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I am over 80 and my health is poor, but I can still do my job as it should be done. The day the brothers believe change is for the best, then I will respond. If I feel that I am not capable, then I will ask for a change; I fear no one and I am not clinging to the post.

[Rizq] Have you thought of giving it up?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Periodically, there are thoughts of change in the MB as a whole. They may change or reverse, but change is not in the air now. Anyhow, I remain the general guide and I am doing my job as I should. If the brothers ask me to step down, I will do so immediately and they will accept it.

[Rizq] Who is managing MB affairs in Cairo while you are in Manfalut?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The deputies. There is first deputy Mustafa Mashhur and second deputy al-Hudaybi. There is also the Shura Council and the Guidance Office. They work following the same system.

[Rizq] Then you admit that Mashhur is managing the MB? Why has his role been boosted to this level?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I delegated him to manage MB affairs because his position as deputy to the guide requires him to carry out all the tasks. My role is an advisory one, but my view prevails in the end. As for boosting his position, it is because he is a veteran member and has experienced the different MB phases. He has foreign and domestic contacts, is highly admired by all, and has prominent, extensive ties, especially internationally.

[Rizq] Does he tell you all the MB news? Does he submit to you all its decisions?

[Abu-al-Nasr] If there is interest in referring an issue to me, then he does so. If I reject something, then he implements exactly what I tell him. Throughout my relations with him, he has never implemented anything I rejected or that was against my will.

[Rizq] Can you manage the MB at your age?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Do not worry. The MB is being managed as best as it can be.

[Rizq] Who took over after Dr. al-Malat's death?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi became a second deputy in addition to being the MB's official spokesman.

[Rizq] With the death of Dr. al-Malat, do you not feel that the MB leadership is nearing its end? All the leaders are over 80 years old.

[Abu-al-Nasr] Age has nothing to do with it. The important thing is efficiency. If anyone feels he is not efficient, then he resigns. There is no shame in the MB leaders being old men; they are wiser and more patient with what they are subjected to.

[Rizq] It is being said that Mustafa Mashhur is trying to make you pay for the services he personally rendered to you when you were chosen as general guide. He is said to be doing this by installing himself as guide, so that you must obey him.

[Abu-al-Nasr] When I was chosen, his role was the same as any other brother. I was appointed due to seniority, because I had been in the MB a long time, had not split from it, and had not turned against Hasan al-Banna or (second guide Hasan) al-Hudaybi. I was chosen unopposed and there were no objections. I received no favors and each brother did his duty when I was chosen. This story about Mashhur is baseless. I delegated him, in his capacity as deputy, to manage the MB affairs that I am unable to handle. This is the basis for the current rumors.

[Rizq] You favor and seek moderation. Can you guarantee the MB will be moderate in the coming phase, particularly in light of your difficulties in moving about and your distance from the decisionmaking center in Cairo?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Moderation is in my nature. As to your fears, notably about Mustafa Mashhur's violence, they are baseless because he is a moderate too. If there are excesses, then the Shura Council puts everyone back on the right track.

[Rizq] But he is one of the founders of the special organization and has been in the secret branches and elsewhere.

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[Abu-al-Nasr] The role of the special organization ended some time ago; it no longer exists. It existed during the days of Palestine, but it does not exist anymore.

[Rizq] Therefore, you deny the current existence of a clandestine special organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] What is the use of such an organization? Everyone can do what he wishes and no one can prevent this.

[Rizq] Then why the recent arrests? The most recent was two days before the talks, when State Security arrested 200 MB leaders in the governorates.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The State has an outdated concept of the MB and wants to protect the country from it. It has the right to protect its safety and security. When this misunderstanding between us and them is overcome, things will improve.

The general guide asked his son, Husayn, about the 200 who were arrested. We told him about them. (He does not read newspapers because of his weak eyesight.)

[Rizq] If you recognize the government's right to ensure safety and security as you mentioned, then why do you insist on provoking the government and establishing organizations, training camps, etc?

[Abu-al-Nasr] As a group, we are working to convince the government to let us assume our role as a group, but the government does not want this. But we will be patient.

[Rizq] Is it just patience or are there plans to topple the regime?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The MB does not plan to take action to coerce the government into anything.

[Rizq] But you are training members in the use of weapons.

[Abu-al-Nasr] No, and we will never point our weapons in the face of the government under any circumstances. If the government recognizes us, so be it. If it does not, we will be patient and continue our demands. We are not a power strong enough to force the government to do anything it does not want to do.

[Rizq] Does the MB recognize the current regime in Egypt, and what form will its policies toward it take?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We recognize any official, political regime in Egypt. We are not working to change the regime. We calmly, quietly demand reform, as other groups do. We express our opinion and the government can accept or reject it.

[Rizq] Therefore, changing the regime by force is not a part of the MB's way of thinking?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Not at all.

[Rizq] Perhaps for yourself alone?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I repeat once again that I am the general guide and responsible for the MB. Nothing can happen behind my back, nothing that I do not know about.

[Rizq] Perhaps it is age?

[Abu-al-Nasr] You discuss forcible change and then you tell me it is my age. The general guide cannot be ignored in these topics.

[Rizq] Then why the many recent arrests among the organizations?

[Abu-al-Nasr] These members have no place in the MB. Secrecy is not acceptable here. If the government is arresting secret members of the MB, then it is helping us uncover phony members. Not one brother in my organization works secretly. Those working secretly are not real MB members, but fake ones. Praise God, there are no fakes among us. We thank the government for revealing those operating falsely under the MB name.

[Rizq] But you act like a banned organization, like legal action should be taken against you.

The general guide did not comment.

[Rizq] What is your estimated number of MB members?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There are no figures or estimates. There are no names or lists. Each member knows exactly where he belongs.

[Rizq] Is this not how secret organizations, rather than public organizations, operate?

[Abu-al-Nasr] As a journalist who knows all the brothers, I challenge you to find this organization that you are talking about. You are now sitting with the general guide. What next?

[Rizq] I have learned that you are trying to reach an agreement with the government to participate in the coming elections.

[Abu-al-Nasr] We have always been looking for a peaceful way to bring us and the government together. We are flexible enough and have enough hope to have an appropriate meeting with the government.

[Rizq] So there is an chance of rapprochement?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There is always an chance, as far as we are concerned. But the government has its own ideas. We will not fight the government and I do not expect the government to fight the world for the sake of the brothers. The brothers are hated worldwide and

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no government is ready to accept the world's hatred for the sake of love the MB.

[Rizq] But you are a coupist group whose sole aim is power and authority. If the rapprochement you are seeking occurs, what would prevent a coup?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Ask the government that question.

[Rizq] And I am asking you too.

[Abu-al-Nasr] As long as the government refuses to deal with us and since we do not have power over it, we will continue to proceed on two parallel courses. Tomorrow might bring some rapprochement.

[Rizq] How can the government have rapprochement with you when you do not condemn violence and see in the terrorism taking place in Upper Egypt a jihad in the name of religion?

[Abu-al-Nasr] First, the brothers are not involved in violence. There is no violence in Islam. We do not approve of violence by the groups, because Islam preaches security and safety. Violence harms the country and does not bring any benefits.

[Rizq] As usual, as in your previous statements, you are holding the middle of the stick. [anta tumsik al-'asa min al-Nisf]

[Abu-al-Nasr] We condemn violence. It is the government that is making accusations against the groups. I cannot make accusations against some people indirectly by accusing others. First, they must be free and have official status; only then I can comment on what is right and what is wrong.

[Rizq] Then you do not see what is happening in Upper Egypt, the killing of innocent people, Copts, and even children?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I denounce violence but I do not accuse anyone of it.

[Rizq] But they themselves are admitting these operations.

[Abu-al-Nasr] They bear responsibility for that. But I cannot judge them because I did not see them with my own eyes and because they did not act in front of me.

[Rizq] Is this tacit approval for what is happening?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Absolutely not. We have no relations with them. The government is capable of dealing with them.

[Rizq] So how can violence in Upper Egypt be stopped?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The government can stop it if there is violence. What violence! I do not understand!!

[Rizq] The violence of the extremists and terrorists against unarmed and innocent people.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The government can deal with that. If there is violence, it can bring them to account.

[Rizq] It appears that the current accusations that the MB is the source of these groups have some basis of truth, in light of this attitude.

[Abu-al-Nasr] They are attributing them to us only because we are the oldest group.

[Rizq] The oldest violent group?

[Abu-al-Nasr] That is not true.

[Rizq] What about Sayyid Qutub's ideas?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I cannot judge his ideas because I have not heard them from Sayyid Qutub.

[Rizq] Then you cast doubts about the ideas published in the books "Features on the Road" [Ma'alim fi al-Tariq] and "In the Shadow of the Koran" [Fi Zilal al-Qur'an]?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I did not hear from him or ask him personally about it, so I do not know about these ideas you are talking about.

[Rizq] Have you not heard of the concept that judgment comes from God [al-hakimiyah li allah]?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I do not know anything about such judgment and I do not subscribe to it. This judgment, my dear sir, is like the story of the "elephant and the blind men." It like trying to describe something by feeling only part of it with your own two hands.

[Rizq] So you have not read the book "Features and Shades" [al-ma'alim wa al-zilal—by MB founding member Sayyid Qutub]?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I have read it and taught about it.

[Rizq] Does it not contain calls to go against society and the rulers? Does this not necessitate banning the activities of people with such ideas?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I will not comment on that.

[Rizq] And what about the concept of repudiation?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Islam is the religion the Koran ordered us to follow, and that the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, taught us. If there are any other opinions, then let it be upon the heads of those who hold them. Issues of this kind require clear thinking. If there were mistakes in Sayyid Qutub's thinking, then why did al-Azhar not confront and repudiate them?

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[Rizq] Why did you not reject them, since you are more knowledgeable about these matters and know all about them?

The general guide did not comment.

[Rizq] What is the meaning of the slogan "Islam is the solution"?

[Abu-al-Nasr] It means that we ought to apply the Islamic shari'ah as was done at the beginning of Islam. With Islam, everything will be rectified.

[Rizq] These are vague words.

[Abu-al-Nasr] No. They are clear and defined words, but you are ignoring them.

[Rizq] Then, how do you view the current ruling regime in Egypt?

[Abu-al-Nasr] This regime is not bad. One can deal with it. It listens to me and I listen to it. Disagreeing with it and acting violently are useless. Reasoning is the best method to follow with it.

[Rizq] And President Mubarak?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We ask God to help and support him. We also hope that God will bless the Muslims through him.

[Rizq] Are there any criticisms of him from the brothers?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Not at all. There are no criticisms. We ask him to implement the shari'ah as best he can—whether by 10 percent, or 50 percent—whatever he deems fit.

[Rizq] Do you believe that applying the shari'ah and the tenets on religious strictures is the ideal solution now?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Are there any doubts about this?

[Rizq] Applying the shari'ah is linked in one's mind to the limitations imposed by religion, cutting off hands, stoning, and other such laws. Do these measures go along with our modern society these days?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Religious strictures do not change; however, they could be amended to fit the times and applications can change during different eras. Before doing anything else, we must clothe the naked and feed the starving before we can apply these religious strictures.

[Rizq] Everything with an Islamic appeal has been employed to lure the simple people and rob them of their money. The simplest example of that are the capital investment companies that were set up.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The capital investment companies of 'Abd-al-Latif Sharif and others were actually from among the Brothers. They formed new companies that have a Brotherhood character. We, as Brothers, support such activities as long as they avoid usury and the like, and serve the interests of those participating in them. I know nothing about the excesses that have taken place in these companies, because relations between these companies and the Brotherhood have not taken the form of formal ties, coordination, or orders. It is only that the founders of these companies were Brotherhood members.

[Rizq] Let us move on to a somewhat different point. What is the story with the MB's international organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We have branches [shu'ab] abroad, in Germany, London, Europe. When any Egyptian brother who has left Cairo sets up a branch he will have some contacts with the mother movement here; that is nothing to be ashamed of. This is what is called the international organization of the MB.

[Rizq] Then you admit that there is such an organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] These branches do exist, and they meet periodically and in different places for consultations and to exchange ideas about the Islamic movement. But it is not an organization in the literal sense of the word; rather it is branches with MB roots.

[Rizq] Then it is the MB's foreign wing?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I do not like the expression "wing." They are MB branches abroad.

[Rizq] Do they follow you personally?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Shura Council is responsible for them, like it is for the activities of the brothers in this country.

[Rizq] But they follow Mustafa Mashhur, whom they regard as the global amir of the international organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I have not heard this. Mashhur might follow their doings, as part of his responsibilities.

[Rizq] What about their plans to set up an Islamic state and bring down [the regime] in Cairo and their coordination of this abroad?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I know nothing of this and I do not know from where you got all this. It appears to be the clever work of journalists, as was the case with that report itself.

[Rizq] But the international organization is a fact and even its enemy Hasan al-Turabi is fighting it with all his might.

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[Abu-al-Nasr] Al-Turabi is a brother who is working very freely in Sudan. Each of us is working in his own way; there are no conflicts between us.

[Rizq] But he has established the "Arab-Islamic Popular Organization" specifically to spite the MB's international organization.

[Abu-al-Nasr] I know nothing about such an organization. This is the first time I have heard about it, right now from you.

[Rizq] How could this be, when Mustafa Mashhur attends its annual meetings? Does he not tell you about his travels to Sudan?

[Abu-al-Nasr] He travels a lot. I did not know that he attended this conference.

[Rizq] Do you not also know that there is a dispute with the brothers in Kuwait?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I know absolutely nothing about this. Why are the brothers in Kuwait annoyed with us?

[Rizq] Mr. Abu-al-Nasr, does your lack of knowledge about that is happening abroad extend to what is happening inside this country? I am specifically asking you if the alliance with the Labor and Liberal Parties still exists or is its role is now over?

[Abu-al-Nasr] It does exist and is continuing. It has not ended yet.

[Rizq] How can it exist when al-Hudaybi believes that it is not useful anymore and has exchanged it for what he calls coordination?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Is not coordination a form of alliance? All these are mere words. The alliance still exists; I, the general guide, say so. We are even ready for an alliance with any party or body as long as it serves Islamic ideas.

[Rizq] Even if it is the Wafd Party?

[Abu-al-Nasr] What is wrong with the Wafd Party? We have good relations with it.

[Rizq] You claim relations are good despite the fact that the Brotherhood does not accept a continuation of this relationship?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Why? What has happened between us? Have we fought each other? Perhaps certain events took place of which I am ignorant and which poisoned the atmosphere between us?

[Rizq] And even the Nasirists?

[Abu-al-Nasr] If the Nasirists present their ideas and we find some shared ideas, we might be able to forge an alliance with them. After all, are the Nasirists not Muslims?

[Rizq] So is there a proposal for an alliance?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We have not had any proposals, but there are no objections.

[Rizq] So from all the preceding information, can I conclude that the MB will take part in the elections despite the fact that it is illegal for you to do so?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The MB has no intentions of running in elections as a group. However, if there are individuals among us who can run and win, then so be it.

[Rizq] Then no decision has been made committing members not to run?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Nor to run either. We have not counted how many MB members want to run in the elections so far. If they do run, they will use Brotherhood slogans, because if they run in the elections as individuals they will not get a single vote.

[Rizq] Do you think the recent police measures against the Brotherhood have anything to do with the elections?

[Abu-al-Nasr] They have absolutely nothing to do with the elections. This is a firm government policy. The Brothers are not wanted by the government. There is a mutual misunderstanding and outdated impressions of the Brothers that we hope will end.

Remark: At this point, Abu-al-Nasr became lost in thought for a long time, saying nothing. When I asked his son Husayn, who attended a large part of the dialogue, about this, he said that it is the disease of old age. He is over 82 years old and gets tired from talking too much. Husayn asked me to end the interview.

Report Claims MB Infiltrating Institutions

NC0408192695 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The confrontation between the government and the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] organization has intensified. It may soon take on a bigger dimension.

A major ministry has submitted a critical report to the political leadership about MB members infiltrating state institutions and on their influence on the media. The report discloses that MB elements have succeeded in controlling the Higher Council for Youth and Sports clubs in Cairo and the governorates. The MB used club employees to control and benefit from funds that the Council earmarked for various activities. They used these clubs as a front to exercise MB activities and hold meetings. [passage omitted]

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The Ministry of Interior has launched urgent investigations to find out how the banned MB penetrated the youth and sports clubs.

The report to the political leadership also revealed that the MB controls the Ministry of Social Affairs' civil associations. Their social functions are subsidized by the Ministry. The report also notes that supporters of the banned MB have infiltrated the media and could use them to promote the group's ideas and programs.

The report demands a comprehensive plan, involving state institutions, to eliminate MB presence in these areas; in this way, the security measures can achieve lasting results.

Official Views Increase in Investment Projects

NC0608203095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Muhyi-al-Din al-Gharib, chairman of the executive council of the General Investments Authority, stated that the overall capital spent on investment projects has risen 21 percent since June 1994. He added that this rate is unprecedented in Egypt since the implementation of the new investment law.

Speaking at a news conference he held this afternoon on investments in Egypt, Dr. al-Gharib said capital totalling 30.7 billion pounds was invested in projects costing 55.7 billion pounds and that 65 percent of the capital was invested by Egyptian investors.

He noted that the number of investment projects in Egypt rose significantly, reaching 3,122 projects as of 20 June 1995 compared to 1,518 projects the previous year. He added that the increase in projects reflects greater confidence in Egypt's economic policy and the direction of Egypt's development plan for the next few years.

He said the increase in Egyptian capital invested in these projects does not mean Arab investment dropped; they constitute 16 percent of foreign investment, which constitutes 17 percent of overall investment.

Dr. al-Gharib went on to say the number of investment projects in the free zones reached 483 costing 5.1 billion pounds. The capital invested in them was 2.4 billion pounds. He said the investment projects in Egypt have provided 770,000 direct and indirect job opportunities with paid wages of 1.2 billion pounds. He said the Alexandria government received the lion's share of the projects. It got 232 projects, followed by Port Said with 105, Cairo with 94, Suez with 46, and Ismailia got six projects.

He added that industrial projects topped the list at 1,490 projects or 47 percent. They were followed by financing projects at 346, tourism projects at 294, construction projects at 183, 171 services projects, and 108 agricultural projects.

He noted that the main reason for the increase in projects is the government's keen interest in the industrial areas, particularly in Upper Egypt. He added that the government may set up three industrial zones in Upper Egypt and preparations are underway to set up a fourth in the Sahil Salim area in Asyut where preparations are already underway to set up a large industrial complex. He stressed that the state is planning to expand the establishment of industrial complexes countrywide and will encourage the private sector to take part in them. He added that preparations are underway to extend utilities to the Dayr al-'Abd area in northern Sinai and to set up a free zone in al-'Arish and Rafah.

Libya

Committee Calls For 'Jihad' To Liberate Jerusalem

LD0708100095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 7 Aug 95

[Statement by "a responsible source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity" to JANA; date not given] txt)[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 7 Aug (JANA) — The General People's Committee for Unity has followed with interest the news concerning the resolution issued by the Israelis through the so-called Supreme Court on 3 August allowing the Temple Mount faithful to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque, the holy mosque of Jerusalem. This resolution constitutes a planned violation and is considered a [word indistinct] to the sanctity of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. It is seen as part of the Israeli plan to judaize the city of Jerusalem, alter its geographic and demographic character, and violate its sanctity.

While we condemn this measure, which violates UN Security Council Resolutions 252, 267, 271, 278, 298, 478, and 904, we stress the following:

First, the Israeli enemy would not have dared or continued to implement its occupation without the American protection umbrella, which was confirmed through the American strategic alliance with the Israelis. America thus stressed its full bias toward the enemy. It also encouraged Israel to implement its plans in the occupied territories within the framework of the Israeli-American plan to subjugate Arabs and compel them to submit, so that they accept all the policies which would make them give up all the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in all Palestine.

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Second, the Arabs' negligence with regard to implementing the conventions drawn up to reflect their will, at the forefront of which is the Joint Arab Defense Pact, makes the enemy contemptuous of them. As a result the enemy continues to harm all their holy places in Palestine, seize more of their land to build settlements, and judaize the holy places.

Third, the Israeli measures scorn all the resolutions issued by Islamic summits, particularly the third Islamic summit on Palestine, held in holy Mecca in 1981. The Israelis act in this way because the Islamic countries did not implement the resolutions they adopted on liberating Jerusalem by means of holy jihad, or the resolutions of the seventh Islamic conference on the holy city of Jerusalem that was held in 1994.

The source concluded: Out of our pan-Arab responsibilities and [word indistinct], we call on the Arab League and the Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to adopt practical measures for holy jihad so as to liberate holy Jerusalem and confront all the plans of the Israeli enemy, in compliance with our pan-Arab and Islamic responsibilities toward Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

Committee: League Agreements Lack Credibility

LD0508223295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0930 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Statement by "an official source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity" to JANA; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 2 Aug (JANA) — Meetings at the Arab League continue to study the draft charter of honor which has been submitted to Arab delegations to discuss and finalize before it is referred to the next session of the League's Ministerial Council for a final decision.

However, those who follow joint Arab action, its mechanisms and programs will notice the absence of credibility of any charters, agreements or resolutions the Arab League issues. These aim at reviving the Arab nation and promoting joint Arab action to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation and affecting its national existence, sovereignty, security, and high interests. They are also aimed at enabling Arabs to grasp all the developments whose negative effects affect the progress of the Arab world, the possibilities of its political and economic revival, and the schemes, generated by these developments, which aim at inflicting more fragmentation and disintegration to the body of the Arab nation in order to subjugate it and impose political and economic hegemony on it.

Those who follow joint Arab action will also notice the Arabs' noncommitment to the implementation of the charters, agreements and resolutions they sign. The Arabs have issued, through their League, the Agreement of Economic Unity, the Joint Arab Defense Pact, the Agreement on the Common Arab Market and the Agreement on Custom and Excise Unity. But all these agreements remain locked in the drawers of the General Secretariat of the Arab League. This is the best evidence of the noncommitment of Arab states to the resolutions they issue.

The Arab reality, with all its manifestations of crisis, needs an essential change in the nature of Arab resolutions. The Great Jamahiriyah has learned the lessons of history and is aware of the shape of things to come, and the nature of the dangers facing the Arab nation. Therefore, it has put forward the project of Arab union as a practical project in order to achieve a comprehensive Arab renaissance at a time when there is no room for tiny entities or a narrow regional outlook.

Powerful nations are those capable of facing the challenges imposed by the nature of the developments which are rapidly unfolding in our contemporary world.

The Great Jamahiriyah has put forward the union project as a project on whose basis the amendments of the Arab League Charter can be founded through the issuance of addendums, including the institutions specified by the the union project. This will help stabilize the mechanisms of the Arab League's actions and boost its effectiveness.

Thus Arab leaders would constitute the League's Presidential Council and prime ministers would form the League's Executive Council. There will also be specialized ministerial councils charged with the execution of strategic national projects in the areas of energy, water, investment, and food self—sufficiency.

Collective commitment to the implementation of Arab agreements, especially the agreements of joint Arab defense and Arab economic unity, and the reactivation of the Arab common market and the agreement of a single Arab nationality is essential.

These are the limits of responsibility which give the Arab League the credibility the joint Arab action lacks. This is the truth that joint Arab action must face in order to gain credibility before the masses of the Arab nation, and to prevent noncommitment from casting its shadows on the Arab Charter of Honor, like it did on the rest of the Arab agreements and charters which time has thrown into oblivion.

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Al-Qadhdhafi Urges 'Sit-In' Against Nuclear Weapons

LD0708002095 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution has stressed the need for all mankind to declare a historic strike that will end only with the complete destruction of nuclear weapons.

In a video address, via satellite, broadcast at the ceremony held yesterday in the Vatican on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the dropping of a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in one of the ugliest crimes witnessed by the history of mankind, the brother leader said on this historic occasion: Brothers throughout the world, I address this call to you all through this ceremony, and I ask how can we suffer from the memory of the massacres of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at a time when we fail to prevent the butcher from being in possession of the knives of death, and from sharpening more of these knives. All of mankind should go on a historic strike that will end only with the complete destruction of nuclear weapons and, thereafter, the banning of nuclear weapons would be logical and not unjust as it is now. [sentence as heard]

This is an order that would not be obeyed; let us go on strike; let us go on an international historic sit-in until we make sure of the destruction of the last nuclear weapon in the hands of those who are in possession of them.

Peace, and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Masses in Banghazi

LD0408220095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1947 GMT on 4 August carries a 50-minute recording of a speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Banghazi on 2 August. Al-Qadhdhafi is addressing a meeting of the masses in Banghazi.

Al-Qadhdhafi thanks his audience for bothering to attend in the summer heat. He appreciates the feelings of the Libyan people, which are reflected in the broadcasts to all the world. The world now knows what the people of Libya are feeling, as Libyan radio and television are broadcast on satellite for all to see and hear. He thanks the audience for its stance. He says that the problems of the Arabs and the Third World are that they are governed by kings and dictators, and the elections they hold are false and forged. Libyans when reading these things see how good things are when compared to those countries. People do not control their resources, whereas in Libya they do.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that al-Nasir was symbol of the honor of the Arab nation. During the British rule of Libya, they brought the Senousis to rule the country.

Al-Qadhdhafi says: We never thought that we would one day influence international policy. The head of the biggest country in the world said that Libya posed a great danger to the United States. Libya has become an important country. We see the falsification of people's will in so many countries. Al-Qadhdhafi then proceeds to talk about the hypocrisy of the Muslims when it comes to Bosnia. The majority in Bosnia are Serbs. They are all slaves, he says. One became a Muslim and one remained on his Christian faith. What is happening in Bosnia is the struggle of the leaders over power. The same used to be true in Libya during the Italians' time. The Arabs have agreed on one thing: subservience to America. Libyans have no such thing, he says.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that laws in Libya are made by the man in the street. The citizen here is free and feels that he is the master. He also talks about the armed groups in Algeria who kill en masse. Other governments, he says, referring to Algeria and Egypt, boast about how many terrorists they have killed. The fundamentalists think everybody else is heretic except themselves. The heretics were responsible for the murder of first Caliphs. The heretics now allow a man and wife to get married without having a marriage ceremony. He dwells on the heresy of Baha'is and Saba'is and other so-called Muslim religions who profess to be Muslims but they really have nothing to do with Islam. He warns families to be vigilant and see that their children are not involved in these heretic movements. It is parents who are responsible for the upbringing of their children. Education of the child starts at home. Arab governments are agreed on one thing: to uproot heresy. Heresy is an alien product; it came from outside.

Al-Qadhdhafi then talks about his position and says that he is not anything, he has no position. All he wants is for the people to remain free and govern themselves through popular committees and congresses. Each region in the country knows what is best for that region. We could run a police state but this has been proven outside Libya not to work, so why should they bother. It is better to let the people run their own affairs. He also starts to talk about the economy and he says that he does not want a dictatorship in Libya; congresses and the communes remain the ideal way to govern. He wants the communes to rule. He says he tried his best to liberate the country from Italian control and he got rid of the foreign troops. During that time, the decision-making

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was not Libyan until the revolution came to be. All other regimes have failed except the Libyan experiment. Al-Qadhdhafi concludes his speech by saying that Libya is governed by the law and the Koran.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Egypt Wants To Control Country

NC0508104495 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 5 (AFP) — Egypt has tried to control neighbouring Sudan ever since the Islamic leadership in Khartoum came to power in a 1989 coup, Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir charged in an interview published on Saturday [5 August].

He told the London-based Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian officials "cannot come to terms with the fact that Sudan has an independent leadership and they want a role in all its policies." The Egyptian government "wants a regime at its disposal that it can guide as it wants, to the right or the left," the president said. It wanted to name a political adviser in Khartoum when the Islamic leadership took power in 1989, he added.

Al-Bashir also criticized the Arab League for its failure to mediate between the two countries over the disputed border region of Hala'ib, following Egypt's accusations Sudan was behind an attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life. "If the Arab League does not budge when conflict between two countries leads to armed incidents, when will it?" he asked.

Khartoum, which denies any role in the abortive assassination attempt on Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26, says a soldier and two of its policemen were killed in clashes with Egyptian troops in Hala'ib within a week of the attempt. The president said that Washington's decision in 1993 to add Sudan to a list of countries allegedly supporting international terrorism was based on "reports from the Egyptian intelligence services." Sudan was prepared to accept "visits to regions where the so-called terrorist training camps are located," he said.

Al-Bashir also said that relations with the Gulf Arab monarchies, strained by Khartoum's support for Baghdad in the 1990-1991 crisis after Iraq invaded Kuwait, had improved.

Envoy Denies Military Cooperation With Iran

LD0608082995 Tehran IRNA in English 0451 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA — Sudanese Ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi denied recent allegations by certain Western media on Iran's military presence in Sudan saying that such allegations were fabricated by the world arrogance.

Speaking to IRNA, the ambassador referred to Tehran-Khartoum relations as 'strategic' and said that his country has so far felt no need to establish military cooperation with Iran. If any defensive cooperation was needed between the two countries, it could be established through agreements, noted al-Mahdi.

Commenting on claims by certain Western dailies on Iran and Sudan supporting Islamic movements in some Arab states, the ambassador stressed that such allegations were made by those who had some domestic problems due to their unpopular policies and thus attributed their internal problems to external forces. Given popular and independent systems in Sudan and Iran which supported just and Islamic issues worldwide, such allegations by arrogant powers and their lackey regimes was not surprising. He described as 'highly excellent' Tehran-Khartoum relations and said the two countries enjoyed strong ties in all fields.

As for the roots of Khartoum disputes with Cairo, al-Mahdi pointed to Sudan's ideological difference with Egypt, cooperation of Cairo Government with the Zionist regime and Egypt's support for U.S. policies. Asked on recent Cairo allegations on Khartoum's involvement in failed assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak, al-Mahdi said like before it was another false fabrication against Sudan.

Mubarak is facing critical problems inside his country the worst of which is public opposition and struggle of Islamic movements against the Cairo regime, the ambassador said, adding that under such circumstances Cairo named external threats to justify its inability to improve economic situation and maintain peace and order inside the country.

As for Khartoum's reaction to the recent threat by Egypt on launching military attack on Sudan, al-Mahdi said it was obvious for all observers that Sudanese people would seriously defend their Islamic system. Therefore, he stressed, if Egypt was to embark on such adventurism, no doubt it would be overthrown since most people opposed the Cairo regime. On allegations raised by the Egyptian regime on Khartoum's support for the Egyptian Islamists and giving them asylum, al-Mahdi said in fact they were supported by the Egyptian people and apparently there was no need to any help from Sudan. Referring to the latest developments in southern Sudan, the ambassador said peace was prevailing in that part of the country and the rebel military forces pulled back beyond Sudan's borders.

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At present the government has full control over the southern part, he said, adding that arrogant powers are attempting to interfere in order to help the other sides. He noted that Sudan would continue its reconstruction efforts in southern areas and noted that military clashes were going on only in a few border areas.

Official: Egypt Evicting Citizens From Hala'ib

EA0408203595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, the minister of state for political affairs at the presidency of the Republic, has reaffirmed that the Egyptian regime's attempts to expel Sudanese citizens from occupied Hala'ib, and to alter its geographical and demographic landmarks, will not change the fait accompli of Hala'ib's Sudanese essence [as heard]. In a statement he made to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, published today, he went on to say that the Cairo regime would be better advised to seek objective dealings with Sudan on Hala'ib, within a framework of international arbitration, instead of persisting in imposing sovereignty on it. He said it was strange for Egypt to accept arbitration on its dispute with the Zionist enemy over the Egyptian territory of Taba, and to reject arbitration with Sudan over the territory of Hala'ib, which has been under Sudanese sovereignty for over 40 years.

It was pointed out that the Cairo regime was now forcing Sudanese citizens and families within the Hala'ib triangle to cross south of Latitude 22. They were being subjected to pressure and harassment, while by night military aircraft were firing bullets and shells in the area's air space to frighten them. About 20 families had been forced to migrate, 11 of whom had settled in the (Israyf) area, and eight others in the valley adjacent to Latitude 22. (Israyf) had been chosen as administrative headquarters of Hala'ib Province, because of the existence of some infrastructure in it. The Hala'ib Council will carry out its tasks from it. All this was part of the operation to implement Zionist aggressive designs by the Egyptian regime against Sudan and its people.

Al-Bashir Receives Iraqi, Libyan Delegations

EA0508193195 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 5 Aug (SUNA) — President of the Republic Gen 'Umar al-Bashir met in his office at the Republican Palace Saturday [5 August] the Iraqi and Libyan delegations for participation at the national workers day celebrations and the meetings of the Central Committee of Sudan Workers Trade Unions Federation (SWTUF).

Al-Bashir affirmed during the meting the importance of Arab solidarity and lifting the unfair blockades from Libya and Iraq. He also asserted keenness of Sudan for realization of Arab unity.

Al-Bashir has hailed the patriotic role of Arab workers reaffirming capability of the Arab nation to confront plots of imperialism.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Talks With PLO's Qaddumi

LD0508174995 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia held talks today with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The talks were held within the framework of the customary and continuous consultations, which were established by President Ben Ali and his brother, Yasir 'Arafat, and the strong relations existing between the two leaderships and Tunisia's continuous support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

The talks focussed on developments in the Middle East peace process, particularly from the Palestinian angle, as well as a number of issues of common interest, plus moves and initiatives made by Tunisia, under the guidance of his excellency the president on various regional and international levels to the benefit of the Palestinian cause.

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Kuwait

Army Readiness at 85%; Iraqi Threat 'Still There'

LD0508103195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 5 Aug — Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has reiterated, in a press interview published here today, that the threat is still there as long as the current Iraqi regime with its expansionist ambitions is still in power.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH, Shaykh al-Hamud asserted, however, that "any Iraqi threat to our land will be strongly resisted by us."

Shaykh al-Hamud disclosed that another batch of the sophisticated F-18 fighter-bombers had arrived in the country on schedule as agreed.

However, concerning Kuwait's current defense readiness, he indicated that "readiness in the Kuwaiti Army is currently 85 percent," but hoped, however, that "it will be 100 percent in the next few years."

He added, nonetheless, that "a strategic plan has been drawn up to increase the personnel of the Kuwaiti Army in the coming few years with emphasis on the recruitment of the right people who can handle and understand today's sophisticated weapons."

Shaykh al-Hamud pointed out, furthermore, that "efforts are under way to boost and modernize the forces of the Peninsula Shield and to examine the possibility of setting up an early warning system to protect the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states."

Concerning the creation of a unified Gulf Army, he said "It was agreed at the recent GCC defense ministers meeting that a unified Gulf army will be created."

The defense minister reiterated, nonetheless, that Kuwait's defense agreements with the five members of the Security Council have proved to be effective and added that the events of October last year when Iraq sent its troops near its borders with Kuwait "have proved the effectiveness of such agreements when land, marine, and air forces from those countries were sent to the country in addition to GCC forces."

Foreign Minister Gets Message From Russian Counterpart

LD0608184895 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The message was conveyed by the Russian charge d'affaires to Ahmad Fahd al-Fahd, the acting undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry. The message deals with the results of the successful talks that were held by Kozyrev during his visit to the country last week. It deals also with the consolidation of bilateral relations.

Company Wins Concession To Prospect for Gold in Niger

LD0608125395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0954 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Niamey, 6 Aug (KUNA) — For the first time a Kuwaiti company has been granted the right to prospect for gold in the Republic of Niger. It was selected from among 40 companies competing for a concession to prospect for gold in this African state.

'Ali al-Qudayri, director-general of the "Al-Qudayri" international trade and contracting company signed a concession agreement today with the Government of Niger represented by Minister of Mines and Energy Issouffou Oussamane. The company's concession covers 515 square km of an original area of 30,000 square km allocated to the international companies selected.

Director-General 'Ali al-Qudayri informed the Kuwaiti news agency that his company has allocated a sum of $5.3 million for an economic feasibility study to be carried out. [passage omitted]

The Al-Qudayri international company signed a protocol with the Niger Government in 1992 to carry out preliminary studies on gold mines over an area of 3,900 square km. These studies established the presence of large quantities of gold, as did the studies prepared by the Niger Government in cooperation with an international company. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Shaykh Hamad Leaves for Jeddah at Fahd's Invitation

JN0608112495 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, left the homeland for Jeddah at 1145 today on a fraternal visit to sisterly Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques. The visit aims at reinforcing fraternal bilateral relations.

The beloved amir was seen off at Doha International Airport by His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy prime minister and interior minister. He was also seen off by their highnesses

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the shaykhs, ministers, the speaker of the Consultative Council, ministries' under secretaries, members of the Consultative Council, and Saudi Ambassador to Qatar His Highness 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hamad al-Shubayli.

The beloved amir is accompanied to Saudi Arabia by an official delegation comprising His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister; His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; His Excellency 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-'Atiyah, chief of the his highness the amir's office; His Excellency Shaykh Tamim Bin-Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani; His Excellency 'Ali Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatari ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

Amir of Qatar Arrives in Jeddah for Visit

LD0608121695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, met his highness the amir at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport. His highness was also met by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

Praises Bonds of Friendship

LD0608143095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1331 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the fraternal State of Qatar, made a statement to SPA on arrival in which he said: "It gives me pleasure on my arrival at my number two country, the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to express my profound greetings, best wishes, and appreciation for my dear brother Saudi King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, coupled with the most profound feelings of sincere fraternal amity the people of Qatar feel for the Saudi people. My visit to the kingdom expresses the bonds of fraternity and cooperation that exist between our two countries as an expression of our conviction of the importance of continous contacts to exchange views and to consult each other on various issues and developments relating to bilateral relations and the progress of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], especially at these critical circumstances in which the region and the Arab nation are passing. I pray to Almighty God to firm our steps and render us successful in our efforts to realize the pride and prosperity our peoples aspire for."

Concludes Visit

LD0608173595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1642 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 Aug (SPA) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the state of Qatar, left Jeddah this afternoon after a brief visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, bade him farewell at the al-Hamra palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Regime Still Said To Threaten Gulf Security

JN0408201695 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "A Regime That Has Lost Its Raison d'Etre"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is the fifth anniversary of the treacherous Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait. The Iraqi regime and its head, Saddam Husayn, are still a threat to the security, peace, and stability of the entire Gulf region. This has raised the concern of all members of the international coalition that defeated Iraqi troops in the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

Diplomats and political observers have said that the Iraqi regime has for the past five years failed to win the trust of the international community. The evidence they cited is the recurrent extension of the international sanctions clamped on this regime to ensure its full compliance with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the terms of the Gulf war cease-fire.

Military observers have said that the Iraqi regime has for the past five years spared no effort to rebuild its military arsenal. This regime, they added, has spent millions of dollars to rebuild the conventional weapons in its possession. Moreover, it has tried to acquire materials used in the production of mass destruction weapons, although the UN Special Commission charged with eliminating this category of weapons has not completed its tasks, which have been obstructed by this regime's hiding these weapons at times and denying their existence and demonstrating procrastination and prevarication at others. At certain points, this regime chose to bargain over the future of these weapons.

Only the day before yesterday, the Iraqi regime announced that it has rebuilt and repaired 1,000 pieces of military equipment destroyed or damaged during the war for the liberation of Kuwait and the war with Iran,

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including tanks, armored personnel carriers, and missile launching pads. This regime spent some $300 million on this effort. This amount of money could have been used to purchase food and medicines, of which there is a shortage caused by the international sanctions, as this regime has frequently claimed.

One may ask: Why should the Iraqi regime rebuild the missile launching pads if it is not concealing a significant number of these missiles, and if it does not intend to use them in a war which it may ignite in the future?

The Iraqi regime, which was not deterred by the humiliating defeat it sustained as a result of its treacherous act against sisterly Kuwait, nor did it learn from the humiliating lessons, which brought it shame, humiliation, and regional and international isolation, is a regime that lost its competence to govern a people such as the unfortunate Iraqi people. It is also a criminal regime that deserves from the world community a punishment that goes beyond the economic sanctions, which, five years after they were imposed, have failed to reduce its mad adherence to power or weaken its grip on power, which it maintains through all means of oppression and by humiliating and defying the will of the Iraqi people.

That regime cannot stay in power any longer, no matter how hard it tries to deceive the Iraqis with certain moves such as its recent decision to grant a general amnesty to all those convicted of political crimes. The Iraqi opposition has warned against such moves and urged the Iraqi people and the world community not to be deceived by such decisions, which are no more than deceitful traps.

King Fahd Makes Ministerial Appointments

LD0408152195 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 4, SPA — Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'-Aziz, yesterday issued four royal orders, making three appointments to the ministerial ranks and two to excellent grades, including one extension.

According to the royal orders, the following appointments were made: - 'Abd-al-Wahhab Bin-Ahmad al-Wasi as the vice chief of the Royal Court with a ministerial rank.

- Mohammad Bin-Suleyman al-Hamdan as the head of king's personal office with a ministerial rank.
- Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hasan al-Nafisa as advisor at the Royal Court with a ministerial rank.
- Saleh Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Mohammad al-Ibrahim as the vice chief of the cabinet's presidency with excellent grade.
- Extension of service of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Thuniyan with an excellent grade for two years from 3/3/1416 and his appointment as ambassador.

King Appoints Senior Officials as Advisers

LD0408195295 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 4, SPA — A royal order has been issued appointing Prince Turki Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Sa'ud and 'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri as advisers at the crown prince's court with the rank of minister.

Chief of Staff Leaves for Border Talks With Yemen

LD0608212695 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Aug 6, (SPA) — General Mohammed Saleh al-Hamad, the chief of the general staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, left Riyadh on Sunday for Sanaa, Yemen, leading a Saudi military delegation for the meetings of the Saudi/Yemeni Military Committee assigned to discuss some issues concerning the common borders between two countries.

It was the fourth meeting to be held between the military officials of the two countries since the conclusion of the memorandum of understanding earlier this year.

Ministry Issues Statement on Execution of 6 Nigerians

LD0108124395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Interior Ministry today issued a statement on the execution of six criminals who carried out a robbery on a commercial bank in Holy Mecca, plundering the monies that were in the bank, threatening the bank employees, and tying them up with ropes. Here follows the text of the statement: [passage omitted]

Baba Hassan Mohamed, Saki Mohamed Mohamed, Abi Said Kader, Abdelhakim Mohamed, Siraj Adib Boubili, and Abdelsalam Baba Tandi Akboula — all of Nigerian nationality — carried out an armed robbery on a bank in Holy Mecca and plundered a sum of money, after having threatened and tied up the employees. They then fled in a stolen vehicle. [passage omitted]

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The sentences were carried out on the above mentioned, by beheading, today Tuesday 5.3.1416H. [1 August] in the Holy city of Mecca. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Message From Qatari Amir

JN0108122395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a verbal message from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, dealing with ways of bolstering bilateral relations in all fields.

The message was conveyed by Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani at a meeting with the UAE president here today.

The Qatari minister arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier today on a short visit to the UAE.

Relief Aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina To Be Shipped

JN0408190195 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, Aug 4 (GNA) — The first shipment of relief supplies by the Welfare Society will leave here tomorrow for Bosnia—Herzegovina.

The 80-ton aid supplies of foodstuff, medications, clothes, and tents will be sent by sea to Croatia and from there to the refugee camps inside Bosnia.

Society Director 'Abd-al-Karim [passage indistinct].

Dubai Satellite TV Begins Broadcasts to South America

NC0608212395 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 6 (AFP)—Dubai's satellite television channel said Sunday [6 August] it has started broadcasting to South America, the first time an Arab station has covered that region.

The head of Dubai radio and television, Ahmad al-Qa'ud, said programs were launched on Saturday through Intelsat and were aimed at a potential nine million Arab viewers in South America.

He added that some popular Arab television series have been translated for the benefit of non-Arab viewers.

Dubai's satellite television began broadcasting in 1992 covering the Arab countries, Europe, as well as in north and central America.

Yemen

Foreign Minister on Border Talks, Ties With Saudi Arabia

JN0408054795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that negotiations between Yemen and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the border issue are under way, as stipulated in last year's memorandum of understanding between the two fraternal countries. He added that the committees formed for this purpose are meeting regularly to achieve the clear objectives drawn up in the memorandum of understanding, and will continue to meet until [word indistinct] agreements are reached on the border between the two fraternal countries as soon as possible.

In an interview with the Main Program, Dr. al-Iryani said: Regarding trade between the two countries, some agreements have been reached in principle during the president's recent visit to Saudi Arabia. He added that measures have yet to be completed to exchange agricultural and industrial products. He noted that contacts are under way on this issue.

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Ekeus Arrives, Hopes for 'Tangible' Results

JN0408181495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1749 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, arrived here today on a visit that will last several days.

In a statement to reporters on arrival, Ekeus said his current visit to Iraq comes within the framework of continuing talks on the biological program and other issues related to the quick implementation of Security Council Resolution 687. He expressed optimism that tangible substantial results might be reached.

He said he will meet with a number of Iraqi officials for talks in this regard.

Wants More Germ Warfare Information

NC0508091395 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 5 (AFP) — Iraq has still not provided the UN Special Disarmament Commission (UNSCOM) with full details it had promised on its germ warfare programme, the commission's head Rolf Ekeus said here Saturday [5 August].

"The Iraqi side handed over a declaration on its biological programme and not much more as a matter of fact," he told AFP.

"So we are studying that for preliminary assessment and will then discuss the situation and the assessment with the senior level of the Iraqi side today," he added.

Ekeus, who arrived here Friday, told the United Nations Security Council on July 2 that Iraq had agreed to furnish his commission with full details of its past germ warfare programme by the end of July.

In a letter to the council he wrote: "Iraq undertook to provide, by the end of July 1995, a full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects of the past biological weapons programme, in a format elaborated by the commission and explained by it in detail to Iraqi experts."

Under the Security Council's Resolution 687, one of the terms for ending the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before an economic embargo can be lifted.

Asked how he described Iraq's declaration, Ekeus said Saturday: "Well, it is a history of the programme and it is a technical description of what has been achieved and there is some documentation added to the declaration supporting some of the statements they made in the declaration."

He said Iraq insisted it had destroyed its germ warfare programme," a matter which has to be verified.

"The Iraqi side explained that what they have produced (in biological weapons) has been destroyed. That is a statement. Of course, it is a matter which has to be verified," Ekeus added.

Ekeus met Iraq's oil minister and chief disarmament negotiator General 'Amr Rashid on Friday. He was due to meet Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz later Saturday.

Ekeus' seven-member team, which includes three experts on bacteriological weapons and Russian ballistic missiles expert Nikita Smidovich, is expected to stay until Sunday. They are trying to find out what happened to 17 tonnes of growth culture capable of use in the manufacture of biological weapons.

After admitting producing biological agents for warfare, Baghdad handed over a first draft of a report explaining what had happened to the material, during a mission by biological arms experts in July. Iraqi sources said the draft report ran to 400 pages.

Iraq has pledged to cooperate fully with UNSCOM but has set the commission a deadline of the end of August to complete its work and then recommend a lifting of the sanctions in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Ekeus has said the germ warfare issue was the only major obstacle to lifting the embargo, although the United States and Britain have insisted that Baghdad should comply with other post-war resolution on missing prisoners and security for Kurds [and] Shiites inside the country.

The other three permanent members of the UN Security Council — China, France and Russia — have spoken in favour of easing the sanctions after a green light from UNSCOM.

Says UN To Decide on Sanctions

JN0508184595 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission entrusted with dismantling Iraq's strategic weapons, has said that he believes the decision to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq will be made by the UN Security Council [UNSC] and not the United States.

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In a statement to journalists on his arrival in Iraq, he added: The UNSC members are the ones who will decide on lifting the blockade.

Ekeus said that he will hold political and technical talks with the Iraqi side on the previous biological program, and the other aspects enshrined in UNSC Resolution 687.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN0508205395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2011 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, this evening.

Tariq 'Aziz told the chairman of the UN Special Commission that Iraq is fully confident that it has fulfilled all the obligations that are related to the implementation of Paragraph 22 set by the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions, and that the time has come for the Special Commission to communicate this fact to the UN Security Council so that it can start, without any delay, to fully implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without any additional conditions or restrictions.

'Aziz affirmed that the Special Commission's failure to inform the UN Security Council at the end of this month of this established fact under any pretext, or the failure of the UN Security Council to implement Paragraph 22 will be viewed by the Iraqi people and leadership as a stand that can only be explained as being tendentious and hostile and seeking to inflict further harm on the Iraqi people. From this premise, the Iraqi people and their leadership will no longer be able to accept such treatment, which has lasted many years, and which has inflicted much harm and pain on the Iraqi people.

The deputy prime minister added that the time has come for the Special Commission and the UN Security Council to seriously consider the situation and to have the UN Security Council implement its obligations to Iraq as enunciated in the UN Security Council resolutions.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Oil Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, the director of the organizations department at the Foreign Ministry, and the delegation accompanying the chairman of the UN Special Commission, attended the meeting.

Receives Report on Germ Warfare

NC0608072795 Paris AFP in English 0651 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 6 (AFP) — A senior UN disarmament envoy said here Sunday [6 August] that he had a "very positive outcome" from his talks with Iraqi officials who handed him a 528-page report on their germ warfare program.

But Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq, said he still had to verify whether Iraq has eliminated its biological weapons program. "It will take some time to analyse it," he said.

Iraq has promised to deliver a full, final report on the program in a bid to end the oil embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait five years ago.

Holds News Conference

JN0608114895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1109 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, met with journalists today at the conclusion of his talks in Baghdad.

Ekeus said he concluded technical and political talks with the Iraqi side today. He added: However, what is new in this visit is that Iraq has handed us the day before yesterday [4 August] a full and final written statement on the biological program. It was an extensive statement containing so many details. Therefore, it will take some time to analyze it. However, our initial review of the report showed that it contains extremely important information which will help resolve pending issues concerning the cease-fire resolution.

Ekeus added: There are technical problems being followed up by our technical teams. We have agreed with the Iraqi side on this matter. We also held elaborate talks with high-ranking Iraqi officials yesterday. The talks cleared up many issues. There is nothing more to say before we are able to analyze the Iraqi written statement.

He said: We agreed that the expert team affiliated with the Special Commission will return within a few days to continue dialogue and to work to resolve the pending problems to be able to brief the UN Security Council as soon as possible.

Answering a question on the nature of these pending problems, Ekeus said that these problems deal with verifying Iraqi information and data regarding the biological program so as to make sure that the program has been destroyed. He said: We discussed this in our lengthy

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discussions which produced a very positive outcome. We are glad about what we have achieved so far.

Ekeus added: Twenty-four hours are not sufficient to read the 526-page Iraqi written statement. However, we formed our initial observations from our first reading and our team is holding a meeting now to discuss it.

Asked if he has discussed the deadline set by Iraq to end the work of the commission by the end of August, Ekeus said: We have not discussed this matter and we avoided dealing with it because such a process requires both sides' cooperation. The next step will be presenting a report to the Security Council. We will also dispatch a new team to Iraq in the next few days, and perhaps I will return to Baghdad very soon to clarify our views and to help the experts. We are giving the experts our political support but we are not leaving the entire matter in their hands.

Asked if he will be able to announce in September that Iraq does not possess weapons of mass destruction, Ekeus said: So far, we do not know. The coming talks will focus on verifying this. However, I can reiterate that Iraq has given extremely positive signs this time, the best we have received from the Iraqi side until now.

Commends Biological Program Talks

JN0608124995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission affiliated with the UN Security Council, left Baghdad today at the end of a three-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Ekeus held talks with several Iraqi officials in the context of continuing the talks on the biological program and other issues related to Resolution 687.

Ekeus has said that the talks he held with the Iraqi side produced very positive results. He added: "We are very happy with what we have achieved thus far."

Interviewed on Biological Program

JN0608195695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 95

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, by "the Baghdad cultural television correspondent" in Baghdad on 6 August — recorded, in English with superimposed Arabic translation; translation is from Arabic; English version not entirely comprehensible]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, what is new in this visit?

[Ekeus] The new thing is that the Iraqi Government handed the Special Commission a full declaration of Iraq's biological program. [Here the Arabic translation fails to account for the following sentence by Ekeus in English: "the program which Iraq earlier has denied existed but now Iraq admits to have produced biological weapons on a large scale."] The report has been handed over to us and an agreement was reached on the first steps to explain the contents of this report. By such a step, Iraq has advanced the development towards the implementation of the cease-fire resolution.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the biological file will be closed?

[Ekeus] Our goal is to realize a closure of the biological file. Now we have received this 526-page report, which is very long. This means that we will need time to study and analyze it. However, this is a very important step in the right direction.

[Correspondent] Will you have to hold a new meeting?

[Ekeus] We are continuing our technical meetings. We had meetings on the political level yesterday. We held prolonged talks and we will try to end this visit within a short time. However, we agreed on certain future measures.

[Correspondent] What will be the next step?

[Ekeus] The next step is that we will submit a report to the Security Council, then it will be up to the Security Council to adopt whatever methods it will take. For our part, we will be sending to Iraq a team of experts as soon as possible to continue the search for reaching special arrangements to explain this important report and declaration.

[Correspondent] Will there be any other file?

[Ekeus] We submitted a report to the UN Security Council last June. We said that the outstanding issues are not of great importance from the security viewpoint. Of course we will continue our attempts to hold a dialogue with Iraq. We are now studying the important issue, which is the biological program.

[Correspondent] From the humanitarian viewpoint, what is your personal stand on the Iraqi people's suffering?

[Ekeus] We are very concerned with the suffering and difficulties the Iraqis are facing. Therefore, we are trying to take a serious step forward in order to find a solution to these problems. I cannot convince the UN Security Council to lift the embargo on Iraq without obtaining clarifications on all these issues. We will try to realize this quickly within the shortest possible time.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

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'Enough Sacrifices' Offered To Honor UN Demands

JN0608080895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH stresses that [words indistinct] (?stand on Iraq) does not proceed from a genuine faith in international legitimacy nor from concern for the security and stability of this vital region of the world. Rather, it proceeds from blind colonialist ambitions and a sadist, vengeful tendency.

In an article today, the paper says that it is unreasonable for the UN Security Council to continue to accept arbitrary pretexts, contrary to its commitments toward Iraq under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 787. Nor is it reasonable for Iraq to continue to suffer and offer sacrifices without being reciprocated by the UN Security Council for honoring its commitments.

The paper adds: Since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, no other nation or people have been subjected to as much harm and injustice as Iraq and its people. All that was in the name of the United Nations itself, its charter, and its alleged justice. It is high time this black chapter in the history of the international organization was brought to an end by lifting the Iraq blockade, ending its people's untold suffering, and giving the country a chance to lead a normal life.

The paper says that Iraq has suffered enough as a result of the vindictive resolutions issued against it, and that it has offered enough sacrifices to implement those unjust resolutions. Thus it has become necessary for the UN Security Council to realize that we will not offer further patience and sacrifices without being rewarded.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the ball is now in the court of the UN Security Council, which should prove its credibility and respect for the provisions of a resolution it adopted by itself. Besides its legal responsibility, the council has a moral and human responsibility. The UN Security Council member states, in addition to all the states that had a role in the issuance of this and other resolutions, bear the same amount of responsibility.

Regime Reportedly Massing Troops in North

NC0508144595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's regime is massing more troops in northern Iraq. According to reports, the Baghdad regime is making military moves near Iraqi Kurdistan.

The moves come after Turkish Government sources leaked reports to the regime. The reports discussed the intention of the Western alliance, as they called it, to remove its aircraft from Incerlik Air Base in Turkey and to lift its protection of the Iraqi Kurds if, in the upcoming talks, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and Kurdistan Democratic Party fail to agree to end their fighting.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command Meeting

JN0508170095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn presided over a meeting of the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces. The meeting, which was attended by a number of commanders and military advisers, touched upon affairs of the Armed Forces.

Commentary Questions U.S. Loyalty to Gulf War Allies

JN0508094195 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1756 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second of August 1990 was a historic and not an ordinary event. It was an expression of ability in which awareness and experience went hand in hand. It was a breakthrough coupled with the historic responsibility so that the necessary response could do its work, not only in pointing out errors and sins but in rectifying them through a long-drawn-out, farsighted battle aimed at upholding justice, preserving rights, and restoring what was lost of these rights.

At the beginning of this event, it was not possible to direct certain forms of questions that required research and investigation because disinformation, instigation, and media campaigns of lies were at their highest. A great amount of information and figures were not disseminated or understood on a large scale. Some might have thought that Iraq moved to ward off the danger of Iraq's loss because of the tampering that had occurred with the oil prices and revenues—a reason which, in itself, is of great importance. But what about the Arab losses in this regard? Was the loss of $500 billion by the Arabs a negligible matter that does not require a decisive stand? Did the loss cover the oil revenues or did it cover various aspects and activities, thanks to foreign greed and local connivance?

These days in 1990, there was an endeavor to make room for an Arab solution. It was true that such an

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endeavor had long been required so that the tamperers and connivers could feel the watchful Arab eyes or the Arab responsibility that could take them to task. However, this endeavor was meant to avert foreign interventions and many repercussions and ramifications. What was the result? Obstacles were placed so that grave losses would emerge from one of the most important joint Arab roles and activities.

Therefore, the deviating and deficient practice was not confined to one area but was manifest in all areas. This was enhanced by irresponsible and careless attitudes. There was an urgent need for reconciliation and solidarity and the attempt to come up with a common stand. This was met with further contempt and recklessness and with more acts of sabotage, harm and [word indistinct].

What was the result of this mode of political behavior and what is the result now? The aim of the conspiratorial plan and the conspirators was to fabricate what was called the Arab majority decision which invited the foreigners. This was preceded and accompanied by such huge number of UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq so that the hostile action would be perfected. Was the rush in the interest of the Arabs? Was the issue of Kuwait—which became the cause of a berserk world thanks to the U.S. Zionist planning—more urgent than the issue of Palestine for which they never batted an eye?

Five years have passed since these events. Why are they still insisting on wiping Iraq out? Why are they insisting on dropping the Arab role? Why are they pursuing and fighting every Arab value and source of pride?

Let us put this question in some other form to satisfy some: What has America done for those who asked it to intervene and to what nation and soil will they now owe allegiance?

Paper on 'U.S. Wars' in Post Cold War Period

JN0108185695 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 95 p 2

[From the "Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "The United States and the Wars of the Post Cold War Period"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have said and often repeated over the years that the United States is the source of the main world evils, and that what is termed the end of the Cold War has actually been followed by the declaration of a hot world war which, however, is divided, scattered, and sometimes staggered. This fact conflicts with the claim by war criminal George Bush that the era of peace and security has set in following the demise of the European communist regimes. A quick glance at the world continents, especially areas of high geopolitical value, will show that these areas are the scenes of wars and bloody crises which have never been witnessed before by the international community even during the Cold War.

Today, we see states fighting each other, citizens of the same country butchering one another, and the United Nations taking up arms and becoming a policeman, and a savage one indeed, as has happened in Iraq, and a false witness as is happening in Yugoslavia. Consequently, tens of thousands are falling dead and several times that number are being displaced from their homes. Children are killed, women are raped, and youths are assassinated publicly. All these hideous acts are seen daily on television. The empire of evil has adopted the policies of official genocide against the Iraqi population with the knowledge and approval of that false witness, the United Nations.

Despite the claims by the United States and its big allies, who turn small at crucial moments in any crisis, that it is controlling the world and preventing disasters and wars, especially following the collapse of the Soviet Union; and, despite the fact that the United States has become the only superpower in a unipolar world with great, unrivaled influence, the wars in the post Cold War period are more savage than any that have been witnessed in the 20th Century, even during the two world wars and subsequent liberation wars. Despite this savageness which has violated fundamental and secondary human rights and the principles of sovereignty and independence, the domineering singular superpower, as the United States claims itself to be, has not moved to prevent massacres!

Why is that? Is it due to its inability? Or, is the United States pursuing an inhumane game which is too big to be comprehended by the midgets who head the big powers in the post Cold War period? It is definite that the United States has set the highest record in the entire history of mankind in the perpetration of mass massacres, genocide, and assassinations as a means of establishing political control over nations and continents and arranging certain specific conditions!

The U.S. Senate's recent decision to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia is not intended to back the Muslims there, as some simpletons may think, or as some pro-U.S. regimes propagate, but is a serious step toward entrenching and expanding the wars in Yugoslavia so as to cover the whole of the Balkan region. First of all, had the United States really intended to end the tragedy of Bosnia and Hercegovina, it would have collaborated with its allies in resolving the problem within one week.

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Did it not say that it launched the biggest and most massive and dangerous war in history when it attacked Iraq to protect the Kuwaiti people?

Let us, therefore, listen to the language of figures in order to truly understand the United States. Kuwait's population is one quarter of a million, other than the non-Kuwaiti residents. In the name of protecting this simple number, the United States killed during the war and the blockade more than one million Iraqis; in other words four times the Kuwaiti population. It also killed more than half a million people in Yugoslavia in order to spark the Balkan wars. Moreover, it killed more than one million people in Rwanda in order to expel France from that country and take its place. Hundreds of thousands of people have also fallen in the wars of the defunct Soviet Union. The same thing is taking place in Latin America where nationalist revolutionaries are being suppressed silently, and sometimes publicly, at the behest of the United States.

Several nations are being starved systematically through the International Monetary Fund and UN agencies in the name of enforcing the market economy, limiting birthrates, or protecting the environment. Some of them have been transformed from stable, self-sufficient communities to nations whose political and social unity is shaken by famine crises!

Before rearranging world conditions, the United States would want first to dismember these states and nations, undermine the pillars of their unity and stability, and deprive them of the right to a free and respectable independent life, and then turn all parties into mere tools for U.S. policy. This is because under the present conditions, the world has unlimited reserves of rejection and resistance which prevent the United States from achieving its aim of dominating the world.

In Yugoslavia, the United States has sparked a war which is intended to involve all the Balkan countries and eastern Europe, especially Russia, in intractable wars, reviving old enmities and creating new ones, which would exhaust the countries of the region and force them to depend on the United States for their security and economy!

France, Russia, and even the old empire of evil, Britain, are urgently calling for a final end to the Yugoslav crisis and have submitted several practical proposals. However, the United States has continued to torpedo every solution to the Yugoslav crisis and to add fuel to the fire by creating new crises. This is why the escalation of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the fall of more Muslim cities and enclaves in Serbian hands, was met by a U.S. step to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia in order to expand the war and forcibly include other neighboring countries, especially Turkey, Greece, and Albania, and later Russia, in what would become the worst wars of attrition and division!

France has come out openly against the U.S. Senate decision, and Britain has criticized it. The European Community has also warned that it would mean withdrawing the UN forces and making the war open-ended without any deterrence or limit. The U.S. president has pretend to be against the Senate decision also, but the wheel is turning, ushering in a new phase in Yugoslavia whose features will be known as soon as Clinton uses the right of veto against the Senate decision and a similar decision which will be made by the House of Representatives. But both houses of Congress would take a second vote on the bill. And, if it gets a two-third majority, the president's veto would be null and void and the bill would become a law and binding to the U.S. Administration. Thus, the United Nations would withdraw without the United States replacing UN and NATO forces. So, what would be the outcome?

The outcome would be an open-ended war, which some people expect would lead to cancellation of the term the post Cold War period and the use of the term the world genocide wars period. The United States would supply arms to the weaker party until it becomes strong, then it would go to the aid of the weaker party in order to restore its fighting strength. Thus, the wars of annihilation would continue until all parties come out defeated. The U.S. cheerleader, in its capacity as trouble shooter, would then enforce its own prescriptions and formulas!

Does Russia realize that? Or, is it preoccupied with its own concerns which Gorbachev had created in coordination with the United States? And, would Europe stand by as a spectator, although the outbreak of Balkan wars would burn the European Union and its dream of economic prosperity?

Paper Criticizes Clinton Message to Congress

JN0508115695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has exposed the contradictions and allegations included in U.S. President Bill Clinton's message to the Congress. In the message, President Clinton called for keeping the blockade against Iraq on the pretext that Iraq did not commit itself to the implementation of the UN resolutions.

In an article today entitled "As the Blockade Is Proceeding Toward Collapse, Clinton Is Swimming Against the Current," the paper says: In his message, Clinton acknowledges two facts, tells a host of lies, and flagrantly

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conflicts with the remarks of Rolf Ekeus. Clinton acknowledges that the United States, and not the United Nations, will keep the blockade against Iraq, that the United States is the party that will keep the blockade against Iraq, and that this blockade is being imposed in the name of the United Nations.

The paper adds: Clinton does not primarily justify the continuation of the blockade on the basis of whether or not Iraq has implemented the UN resolutions. In fact, Clinton claimed before the Congress that the real motive behind keeping the blockade is that Iraq poses an unusual threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy and also to peace and security. If the international community accepts this allegation, it will then confirm that the problem is between Iraq and the United States and not between Iraq and the international community. This is so because U.S. national security and foreign policy do not represent the security and policy of all states, nor do they represent the interests of all states. They rather represent a U.S. concept that only reflects the colonialist interests of the United States.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that Clinton does not hesitate to continue misleading the Congress by telling straight and naive lies. In his message, he says that the sanctions will continue because Iraq did not fully commit itself to the UN resolutions. This allegation completely conflicts with the recent report of the UN Special Commission. This report clearly asserts, for the first time in five years, that Iraq has completely fulfilled its basic commitments and that what remains is for Iraq to give information on the culture media, so the economic blockade can be lifted.

The paper says: Clinton also lied when he claimed that Iraq refuses to return the missing Kuwaitis and Kuwaiti property and continues to pursue terrorism and persecute the Iraqi Kurds. This is so because the missing Kuwaitis is a controversial issue and it is also a Kuwaiti-U.S. political tool which is used to justify the perpetuation of the blockade.

Had the issue of the missing Kuwaitis not been a Kuwaiti-U.S. political tool, then what has prevented the normalization of relations and the lifting of the economic blockade while continuing the search for the missing Kuwaitis, similar to what the United States did with Vietnam? The United States claims that 2,000 Americans have been missed in action in Vietnam for more than 20 years. Ending the blockade has nothing to do with the missing Kuwaitis. Moreover, Resolution 687 and other resolutions do not stipulate that resolving the missing Kuwaitis issue is a precondition for lifting the blockade.

Regarding the Kuwaiti equipment issue, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Kuwaiti authorities have frequently refused to receive this equipment, and they did not even agree to negotiate their receipt. This confirms that the equipment issue is being used for known political purposes. Clinton also claimed that Iraq pursues terrorism. However, he did not give a single piece of proof and he instead cited general remarks and baseless rumors.

The paper adds: Due to his stupid grudge, Clinton could not recall that the talk about the Iraqi Kurds and their persecution is untrue. This is so because the whole world, particularly the Kurds in the region, see the United States taking advantage of their tragedy for dirty purposes and encouraging their annihilation and the use of U.S. equipment for their mass killing and for rendering them homeless. Clinton found it easy to tell lies to the Congress because the congressmen are not used to scrutinizing foreign issues, contrary to their meticulous scrutiny of domestic issues.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The best reply to Clinton's message has come from Rolf Ekeus. Asked about his viewpoint on Clinton's remarks, Ekeus said: The decision to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq will be made by the Security Council and not by the United States.

U.S. Invitation for Kurdish Talks Examined

JN0408164495 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "In Light of the Recent U.S. Intervention in the Autonomous Region, What Options Have the U.S. Administrations Been Left?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration recently announced that it summoned the two warring groups in the Autonomous Region in northern Iraq for talks under its supervision to halt the fighting raging between them. This is because, as announced by the U.S. State Department spokesman, this fighting threatens the U.S. vital interests. The United States also warned the two groups against negotiating with Baghdad.

Despite this brazen and flagrant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs, the U.S. Administration claims to be concerned for Iraq's territorial integrity. Through this article, we would like to explore the real intentions and reasons behind this U.S. policy. We would also like to explore the U.S. methods to achieve its overt and covert intentions.

To begin with, let us try to answer the following question: What are the vital U.S. interests threatened

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by this fighting between the Jalalis [supporters of Jalal Talabani] and Barzanis [supporters of Mas'ud Barzani]?

The official U.S. sources say that fighting weakens the two sides. If the two sides are weakened, the U.S. sources go on, this will make it easy for Iran to establish a foothold in northern Iraq, and this is not in the interest of the United States. This also makes it easy for Saddam Husayn, they argue, to return to northern Iraq, and this is not in the interest of the United States, because the U.S. Administration wants to contain both Iran and Iraq.

This is the logic of the Washington decisionmakers.

Now let us discuss this logic.

Did Iran dare touch northern Iraq when the national authority used to exist there?

The answer is: Absolutely not.

Definitely, Iran has dared to infiltrate into northern Iraq and form "an armed Islamic party" in the region and supply it with arms, money, and mullahs because of the chaos that has been existing there since the absence of the national Iraqi authority in the region in the fall of 1991 because of the U.S. intervention.

This means that the Americans, who declare that they do not wish to see an Iranian influence in northern Iraq, have actually helped such an influence to exist, either because of their inability to prevent it or because of their deliberate intention to facilitate its presence.

One may ask: Why would they facilitate the Iranian presence in northern Iraq and at the same time declare that they are against it?

The answer is: This presence is not big enough to pose a threat to the region, but it is big enough to give the Americans an opportunity to use it to show concern for the "vital U.S. interests" and to justify the continued U.S. intervention in northern Iraq.

That is not all. The Turkish Kurdish activity has never been greater. Turkish national security has never been threatened so seriously when the national Iraqi authority used to play its legitimate role. The authority vacuum in the region, as admitted by Turkish government and opposition circles, has expanded this threat.

What is the U.S. Administration's covert and overt stand on the expansion of the activity of the Kurdistan Workers Party?

It is known that the U.S. Administration label this party's activities as terrorist. However, according to Turkish sources, the U.S. Administration has extended aid to some of its elements. Besides, the presence of the so-called U.S. Hammer Force in Turkey facilitates this party's activities — directly through aid, and indirectly through the prevention of the return of the Iraqi national authority to northern Iraq. Therefore, despite its close friendship with Turkey, the United States does not care if the national Turkish security is put in jeopardy.

Why so?

Has Turkey's role within NATO against the Soviet Union exhausted its purpose?

Before we answer this question, we have to ask: Does Turkey have the opportunity and potential to achieve strategic, political, and economic objectives that would reflect on Turkey's power and national interests?

The answer to the second question is: Yes, certainly, because the opportunities and potentials that were available to Turkey after the collapse of the Soviet Union were geopolitically and economically great. Turkey, first of all, has influence in Azerbaijan, Turkestan, and other countries in the southern Soviet Union. There are over a million Turks in Bulgaria, many others in Germany, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Cyprus. Turkey is a Muslim state, even though its Constitution states that it is secular.

All the national, religious, and geographic elements put together provide good opportunities for any Turkish regime, whether nationalist or fundamentalist. Should the Americans wait until a political current assumes power in Turkey and begins to treat them as rivals or even disagree with their policies before they start dealing with this current, along with all the inherent difficulties, or should the Americans start aiming at the base in order to weaken the possibility of an early emergence of such a current that would turn into a problem? This makes it easy to answer the question: Why doesn't the U.S. Administration want Saddam Husayn to return to northern Iraq? It claims that if Saddam Husayn returns to northern Iraq, he will persecute the Kurds. The United Stats, along with Britain, have decided that the region should be a "safe haven" for Kurds. So, the United States, prompted by its "honorable human motives," wants to protect the Kurds from Saddam Husayn. Meanwhile, it either does not care or is incapable of preventing the Turkish Army from killing Kurds, Iranians from killing Kurds, and Iraqi Kurds from killing themselves. What safe haven is this?

If we ask any Iraqi Kurd, whether a Jalali or Barzani, to say frankly and honestly and without any pressure if the self-rule area was a safe haven for Kurds before the U.S. intervention or after it, he will unhesitatingly say before the U.S. intervention, and not after it. If we ask him if Saddam Husayn is persecuting the Kurds, he will say Saddam Husayn is the architect of the self-rule

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area. He is a man of his word, and he is the man who transferred the region from backwardness to a state of real prosperity unprecedented in its history and that of the Kurdish areas in Turkey, Iran, and Syria.

Saddam Husayn is not against Kurds. He is against those who bring in foreigners to occupy part of Iraq's land, and those who conspire with foreigners against the sovereignty of Iraq. All Kurds of all loyalties and allegiances know this for a fact. The other fact is that it was the U.S. Administration that prevented the Kurdistan Front from signing the agreement reached with the Iraqi Government in August 1991. At the time, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, with the help of Edward Djerejian, summoned Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani and warned them against signing any agreement with Baghdad. Today, the U.S. Administration reiterates this warning, and intends to summon them again to Washington for the same purpose.

The last pressing question is: How does the United States view Iraq and its neighbors in the aftermath of the Cold War? Needless to say, the United States seeks to have free access to the region in order to exploit its oil wealth and determine its production and marketing policy, including prices and revenues. It also wants all regimes in the region to serve this U.S. policy and believes that all the political trends, regimes, parties, and individuals who oppose this policy must be terminated.

The second fact is that Israel must always remain the stronger entity, militarily and economically. Since this entity is small in terms of population, area, and potential, these states must not be allowed to form any blocs or unions, or undertake joint action. None of them should be given a chance to develop nationally and independently from the U.S. will.

We might say within this context that the U.S. Administration sees the U.S. vital interests in the region from the Israeli perspective.

Hence, Iraq under its patriotic leadership, which has a pan-Arab leaning, is an obstacle to the U.S. policy which has "Israeli eyes." Therefore, the United States launched an all-out war against it and opened five fronts against it, which started on the date the cease-fire with Iran was declared, with a media war that increased day by day, followed by a political war, an economic war, a military war, and then a conspiratorial war.

A cease-fire was observed for well-known reasons, but the war on the four other fronts—the media, political, siege, and conspiratorial wars—continue until now.

What was the result? The United States failed in its media war against Iraq. The Arab and Islamic public opinions are with Iraq and its leader and not with the U.S. Administration and its friends. The United States retreated on the political front with Iraq, and the voices that call for lifting the siege on Iraq and restoring its Arab and international status are daily increasing. The U.S. Administration has become on the defensive and Iraq and its supporters have become in an offensive position.

The siege's objectives to change Iraq into another Rwanda have failed, and Iraq succeeded in preserving its food security and continued its development process in spite of the well-known difficulties caused by the siege. Furthermore, Iraq realized great achievements in some sectors even compared with pre-siege standards.

All internal and external conspiratorial attempts financed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency also failed, and all the money and efforts made have been fruitless.

The U.S. policy toward Iraq, especially in the north, reached a real impasse: Should it withdraw from the north or should it stay there? Withdrawal is impossible; staying there is also impossible; and setting up a Kurdish state is unacceptable. Can there be a more complicated impasse?

What adds to this impasse is that the fighting between the Jalalis and Barzanis continues. This fighting is certainly not caused by ideological reasons, because both parties do not have an ideology. Jalal Talabani is a man who describes himself as a pragmatist politician after he deceived the Marxists during the glorious days of the communists and Marxists. He belongs to the Talabani tribe, and most of his supporters are from that tribe. As for Mas'ud Barzani, he succeeded his father Mulla Mustafa as chief of the Barzanis. Hence, the ideological and organizational loyalty of each of them is tribal, and politics are used in service of the tribe and to secure its control on the region.

According to the U.S. political media, both men are considered war lords, but the U.S. media avoid using this term and use it for [former Ugandan President] Idi Amin and others.

This reality of both men, leaves the option open for them to kill one another if one of them fails to win the loyalty of the other or if he fails to weaken him so that he will not pose any threat to him.

What are the options left for the U.S. Administration?

To impose custodianship on the Iraqi Kurdish citizens in a blatant manner, and to prevent any dialogue between them and their national authority in Baghdad? Doesn't that mean another failure for Anthony Lake's group

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in the U.S. National Security Council? Will the U.S. Administration succeed in this final option?

This is something about which there is much doubt because the situation in the Autonomous Region shows signs of explosion. There is all-out frustration, severe poverty, famine, and disease. If a cease-fire between the two warring factions is reached, it will not last long, because they concluded eight cease-fire agreements, some as a result of U.S. appeals and supervision. The popular pressure to reach an understanding with Baghdad and end the tribulation of "the unsafe haven" is greater than Talabani and Barzani can resist. Just wait and see.

INC Opposition Alliance Said To Be Near Collapse

NC0608060095 Paris AFP in English 2346 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 6 (AFP) — The alliance of Arab and Kurd opponents forged after the Gulf War to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is close to collapse, wracked by bloodshed, personal rivalries and distrust.

The United States and Britain have been trying to hold together the coalition, which they encouraged after the 1991 conflict and have since provided air cover in the declared "safe haven" of northern Iraq.

But Iraq also has been wooing the Kurds with calls for a resumption of contacts with the government in Baghdad, which lost control of the north of the country after the war.

Retired general Hasan al-Naqib, a leading opposition figure, said the Iraqi National Congress (INC) alliance was "finished" and that the lives of Arab opposition figures in Iraqi Kurdistan were in danger.

"The Arab branch (of the opposition) is the most important, and the INC is no longer capable of assuring the fall of Saddam Husayn," said the Sunni Moslem retired general.

The general is one of the three leaders of the INC, based in northern Iraq, along with Kurdish chief Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and Sayyid Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, a Shiite religious leader.

It has been more than a year since the three-member leadership council has met, and Bahr-al-'Ulum suspended his participation three months ago to protest the way decisions were made.

"I won't go back to northern Iraq any more because I cannot work properly there. It's a hopeless situation," al-Naqib told the Arab daily AL-HAYAH from the Syrian capital last week.

An INC official in London, Qasim Ghali, said: "I fear that the conflict between General al-Naqib and Barzani will only lead to a split between Arabs and Kurds."

Another key Sunni Arab opposition figure, Wafiq al-Samarra'i, charged that Barzani had tried to have him assassinated since his defection to northern Iraq last December.

On Thursday, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani accused Barzani's group of having formed a secret alliance with President Saddam Husayn.

But KDP spokesman Fazi Atrushi, contacted in London, dismissed all the charges and defended his group.

"The KDP does not need a certificate of patriotism from a former chief of military intelligence," he said. As for al-Samarra'i, he was "one of those who carried out the genocide of the Kurdish people" in an Iraqi onslaught in 1988.

An INC spokesman in London, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, admitted that the coalition was in a crisis.

"The effectiveness of the INC has diminished because of fighting in Kurdistan," he said over the telephone, referring to inter- Kurdish fighting over power and tax revenues that has cost more than 2,000 lives since May 1994.

The PUK-KDP clashes "have deprived the non-Kurdish opposition of a base in Iraq," 'Abd-al-Jabbar added.

The two groups are to hold peace talks between August 9 and 11 in Lisbon under U.S. mediation, while Britain also urged the INC to close ranks against Saddam at a meeting at the Foreign Office on Thursday [2 August].

As for the president's opponents in the Shiite camp, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, based in Tehran, visited Damascus last week to try to rally the different factions.

But al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), also said the INC was "neither serious nor effective."

The Iraqi communist party has suspended its participation in the INC, and Al-Da'wah, the oldest Shiite group, has quit the alliance.

Financing for the INC and the use of the funds has exacerbated the internal quarreling." "Reports in the American press that the INC received funds from the CIA (US intelligence service) aggravated the situation," 'Abd-al-Jabbar said.

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But 'Abd-al-Jabbar said there were few alternatives to the INC.

"None of those who have left the INC have been able to form another coalition. Therefore, collective action remains imperative. No other group can alone topple Saddam."

Paper Recalls Events Leading to Gulf War

JN0708093595 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "On the Occasion of 2 August 1990, a Day for Remembrance and a Day for Work"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five years have passed since the great day of call [invasion of Kuwait], when Iraq was forced to reply, after long and painful endurance, to the plotting by the wicked and corrupt Kuwaiti rulers leading to the event which rattled the world and the region and which may still rattle the world and the region many more times as long as Iraq is subjected to continuous aggression and permanent injustice.

What caused everything to change and result in a collision course far away from the spirit of dialogue and the search for peaceful solutions? Is it true that Iraq's entry into Kuwait was the beginning, as the United States and the flock of iron-clad crows trailing behind it claim? Or, was it a link in the chain of an organized conspiratorial process which was prepared and carried out by the United States by depending on a group of agents and regimes? Last, but not least, we must raise the most important question: Where is the region heading?

During the past five years, serious events and compulsive adjustments have revealed facts which could not have been understood during the years 1990 to 1993, because allegations dominated the situation, especially since the United States had, and still has superior media and physical power. Thus, it made the media predominant and made the world believe them, despite all the falsehood and deception.

The most important fact which we must deal with now is the role of the Kuwait issue in the aggression on Iraq. The United States had mobilized the world against Iraq and waged a third world war against it on the pretext of evicting it from Kuwait. To achieve that in the name of world and "international legitimacy" it forced the UN Security Council to pass 31 resolutions against Iraq at a speed that has never been known in the history of the United Nations! The gist of the U.S. position and the Security Council resolutions was that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and fulfill its obligations under those resolutions before the blockade on it could be lifted. By the force of this approach, the United States succeeded in rallying a majority of states and used both deception and international terrorism in persuading them to stand against Iraq. Now, however, that is five years later, Iraq has succeeded in implementing the main resolutions pertaining to lifting the economic embargo; especially Clause C of Resolutions 687 concerning the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery. Thus, it has become natural to raise the subject of applying Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution, which says that as soon as Iraq fulfills its obligations under Clause C the economic embargo shall be lifted.

In order to strengthen the prospect of lifting the economic embargo and to pull the rug from under the feet of the United States, Iraq agreed to Resolution 715 concerning permanent monitoring [of its armament] even before the economic embargo has been lifted. This was agreed to even though the logical time sequence should have been based on fulfilling Clause C of Resolution 687 and then implementing Paragraph 22 of the same resolution — in other words, lifting the blockade before initiating permanent monitoring.

More than that, Iraq agreed to recognize Kuwait and its borders in compliance with the wish of certain international parties, which said that this would strengthen the prospect of lifting the blockade and block the way to any U.S. objections. When the United States began raising secondary issues, such as insufficient data on previous programs, Iraq, also responded to the insistence of other states, especially Russia and China, and submitted all data pertaining to old programs.

Thus, it has become the duty of the Security Council to issue a resolution lifting the economic embargo. However, the United States has objected to that and adopted a stand which insisted on continuing the blockade even if Iraq implemented all the Security Council resolutions. This development has clashed with the position of a majority of states which believe that what is required to lift the economic embargo is simply the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

Because of this contradiction and the increasing isolation of the U.S. position, which was aptly expressed by an article in the WASHINGTON POST last week calling for reconsideration of the unreasonable U.S. attitude toward Iraq and an editorial in the British paper THE GUARDIAN admitting that Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions had placed the United States in an embarrassing situation since the majority of the world is sympathetic to the Iraqi position, we say it has become easy to take world public opinion back

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seven years ago to remind it of positions that are pertinent to what happened then and what is happening now.

Until the end of 1993, it had been difficult for Iraq to convince the Europeans and the Americans that U.S. hostility to Iraq went beyond and was older and deeper than the Kuwait issue. But it is easy now that everyone, including some important and influential circles in the United States, have begun to wonder curiously about the reason for U.S. obstinacy and the transformation of the United States into a minority in the Security Council, albeit a minority with a truncheon with which to threaten others.

What were the manifestations and beginnings of U.S. hostility toward Iraq? We will now recall several facts which appeared in the second half of 1998. A short while after the resumption of diplomatic relations about the end of August 1988 — that is, after the victory on Iran — the United States began launching blistering propaganda campaigns against Iraq and its leader. Those campaigns were accompanied by an economic and technological embargo and an attempt to isolate Iraq politically!

And, despite the absence of any dispute with Iraq, the United States continued its campaign to the point of issuing an official comment in the name of the U.S. Government at the end of 1988 against Iraq and its leader! When U.S. Under Secretary of State John Kelly visited Iraq at that time and was asked about that comment, he made an official apology and admitted that it was a mistake. However, the United States resumed its attack on Iraq and dispatched Kelly along with the British foreign under secretary on a tour of the Arabian Gulf states to instigate them against Iraq and to frighten them of it!

Thus, the subsequent escalated campaigns against Iraq on the issues of the "super gun," "the chemical weapons," "the minorities," "terrorism," etc. showed the existence of a U.S. decision to isolate and strike at Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz, who was foreign minister at the time, tried during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the United Nations to find out the reasons for this unjustifiable U.S. escalation. Baker replied by saying: "Iraq is encouraging terrorism!" Thus, two manifestations crystallized: the manifestation of U.S. rejection of any serious dialogue with Iraq to resolve the presumed problems, and the manifestation of pushing matters to the brink of the abyss. Also as part of that campaign, the United States began instigating the gulf states against Iraq; especially Kuwait whose rulers were willing to act as pliable tools in the hands of the United States. With the ferocity of the U.S. media and the lack of any logic in U.S. diplomacy, the Iraqis observed that the Kuwait rulers had begun following in the steps of the United States by escalating their own campaign against Iraq, exploiting the issues of debts and the demarcation of the border.

Every one in the Arab homeland knew that flexibility, bordering on almost total weakness and submission to blackmail, was the hallmark of Kuwaiti diplomacy. This was particularly evident in the context of Syrian-Kuwaiti relations. It was sufficient for the Syrian regime to make an indirect threat for Jabir's coffers to be laid open before Syria! But the real astonishing thing was that the Iraqi citizen had begun to observe that the Kuwaiti Government was acting in a provocative manner tinged with unusual arrogance toward Iraq!

The Kuwaiti rulers began talking about their debts and favors to Iraq and demanding the demarcation of the border according to their own terms, saying it was up to Iraq to agree, because they would not accept anything else! They also took a grave step when they began exceeding their oil share, glutting the oil market, lowering prices, and thus inflicting on Iraq, which had just come out from a fierce war which depleted its resources, enormous damages which threatened to undermine its plans to overcome the economic crisis resulting from the war with Iran.

At that time, Iraqis began to wonder seriously: Why is Kuwait doing this now? Does it not know that this will inflict great damage to Iraq and make its people and government react negatively rather than respond to Kuwait's demands?

Iraq resorted to the language of fraternal dialogue by dispatching its envoys to Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, where they expressed Iraq's anxiety and disappointment to the officials there and tried to resolve the problems through understanding and dialogue. The envoys received reassuring or angry responses.

To further complicate matters and to make the problem impossible to resolve, the Kuwaiti Government began to cooperate with U.S. intelligence against Iraq and to prepare Kuwaiti territory as a springboard for an attack on Iraq. The joint U.S.-Kuwaiti military maneuvers which took place in 1989 and considered the "northern enemy" as the target was only example of Kuwaiti insistence on not resolving the crisis through understanding and dialogue.

Thus, Iraq found itself a target of campaigns from different directions and different parties which were all directed toward escalation rather than a solution. Kuwait played a major role in the process of strangulating Iraq economically and trying to deprive it of the possibility

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to exploit its oil resources to make up for the shortages during the war with Iran.

Recalling these events and facts is particularly important now, because the events of the past five years are confirmed in documents and confessions. They are events and facts which mean two basic things: First, following Iraq's victory over Iran, the United States began implementing a plan to isolate and weaken Iraq to pave the way for toppling it, after it had realized that the war with Iran did not end with fragmenting and defeating the Iraqi model.

Second, Kuwait agreed to become a pliable tool in the hands of the United States to destroy the Iraqi economy and to prevent the Iraqi leadership from using the oil revenues to tackle the negative effects of the war with Iran. It also began to act in a vicious and provocative manner toward Iraq by aborting all the proposals made for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

These are the facts which we must recall now so that they will not escape any neutral observer and so that the Iraqis will not overlook the truth that everything had been planned to destroy Iraq, and that the Kuwaiti rulers had volunteered to work in this context, using their geographical position and Kuwait's historical ties with Iraq toward that end.

This remembrance leads to an extremely important point; namely, that the responsibility for the crisis does not fall on Iraq, but on America in the first place and the Kuwaiti rulers in the second. Therefore, whoever plays a role such as the one by the Kuwaiti rulers has no right to complain about the natural reaction which came from Iraq.

If that is the origin of the crisis, then the continuation of the crisis is also the making of the same two parties: America and the Kuwaiti rulers. Because, now after what has happened and Iraq has implemented the UN resolutions despite their unfairness, we still see the United States insisting on maintaining the blockade. We also still hear official Kuwaiti voices demanding the continuation of the blockade and the annihilation of the Iraqi people and see Kuwait paying bribes to states and organizations to secure their support for this criminal demand! Had the Kuwaiti rulers possessed one iota of intelligence and maturity, they would have learned the lesson that they must coexist with Iraq in a peaceful and normal manner and not indulge in hurting its people and history. These people must know very well that Iraq is the first basic fact in this vital and important region. Others are mere marginal and extra links. They must always know that the United States deals with marginal and extra links only for a period of time. Its permanent dealing is only with the firm, basic facts in the regions of the world.

Yet, the Kuwaiti rulers still tackle their relationship with Iraq with unusual impertinence and an absent or languid mind, forgetting that the blockade will be lifted sooner or later. Then, neither America nor anyone else will protect them. They will only be protected by their good relations with Iraq. So, it behooves the Kuwaiti rulers to read this phrase properly and to understand it correctly before it becomes too late and before the development of an Iraqi public trend rejecting any dialogue with the Kuwaiti rulers as a result of their crimes and hostile stands toward Iraq. Following these past five years, it behooves everyone to remember that the future of the region and the stability of the world depends upon Iraq. We have withstood the empire of evil and have foiled its plans despite its strong insistence and threats on changing the Iraqi Government. Here we are moving ahead firmly to exact final victory by lifting the blockade, which the United States cannot maintain, it has only succeeded in prolonging it for a while, especially now that the world is aware of the truth that Iraq has overcome all threats to its existence and is ready to make the final leap to the other bank; the bank of peace, stability, freedom, and prosperity. The world has begun to harmonize its stands with the established Iraqi reality.

Let the Kuwaiti rulers remember all that and understand that the United States is being isolated. Even Britain has begun to move away from the U.S. attitude toward Iraq. Because, if they do not remember all that, they will prove that they do not have the survival instinct which every creature has.

Paper Hails Restoration of War-Damaged Weaponry

JN0708111495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Once Again, Say: The Future Is Ours"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here are the weapons which the aggressors have destroyed at different stages of our continuous struggle for existence, again operational in the ranks of the army of freedom, justice, and national dignity. The enemies thought that these weapons had become a useless heap of scrap iron. But the Iraqi hand, which has astonished the world with its miracles in an age marked by submission to the U.S. dictatorship of evil and death, has reached out to breathe life into the damaged tanks, artillery, and communication systems and restore them to service!

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Why do we consider this work a major victory? The significance of this campaign ordered by leader President Saddam Husayn does not only lie in the military value of the restored equipment, but also essentially in the political and technological aspects of this Iraqi achievement. From the political aspect, by carrying out this reconstruction and repair campaign Iraq asserts its complete readiness to face any emergency and to repulse any possible aggression while we are passing through the phase of determining a crucial conflict.

Despite America and its satellites, the Iraqi Army is still capable of defending Iraq and its independence and sovereignty, because it has the material means, which are arms and ammunitions, and high morale, which is the determination to defend Iraq under all circumstances and possibilities. Therefore, the first message which this campaign conveys to the enemies is as follows: Never miscalculate and think that the 30-state aggression has stripped Iraq of its deterrent capabilities, because the Iraqi Army has been and will continue to be the largest Arab deterrent and defense force.

From the technological aspect, this major work underscores one fact which must always be remembered; namely, that the Iraqi brain has broken through and destroyed the cordon which has prevented the Arabs and the Third World from entering the field of sophisticated armament industries to keep them dependent on some international party and make them lose their political will and, thus, become captive to the will of whoever makes and sells arms.

What the Iraqi brain has achieved is indeed a great work of technology and engineering which is more significant than making a new machine. Because, to restore a damaged machine one has to go through two processes: finding out how it was made, and how to remake it. Thus, restoring these weapons and equipment to service is a creative work which confirms the ability of the Iraqi engineering brain to handle all types of sophisticated weapons by depending on its own abilities. This in itself constitutes a major step forward on the path of strengthening the power of the Arab nation and developing and creating the technical expertise which will guarantee its awakening and make it self-reliant.

Finally, is there a more clever way of utilizing resources than restoring life to equipment which, by all accounts, has been deemed finished, and also restoring this equipment to service to enhance Iraq's deterrent power? Raise your voices in praise for the one Almighty God, who enabled the Iraqis and their great leader Saddam Husayn to maintain hope and the spirit of challenge in order to create modern miracles.

Minister Details Irrigation Projects

JN3107192895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Jul 95 p 7

[Report by Subhi Jasim]

[FBIS Translated Text] To understand the role which leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has played in initiating irrigation projects and the role which the Ministry of Irrigation has played in carrying out these projects, we met with Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir, who made the following statement:

Leader President Saddam Husayn has played a major role in drawing the irrigation map of our country. This map is in harmony with the development plans that seek to ensure people's food and foil the plot of the unfair blockade, which has been imposed on our people. Some 22 irrigation projects were implemented last year and this year to expand the cultivated area and to achieve self-sufficiency to guarantee food security and to build a strong agricultural economic base which would form the basis for Arab economic integration. God be praised, most of these were commissioned into service during the previous agricultural season. They introduced a new area of more than 500,000 donums and improved an area of more than one million donums.

Al-Qasir continued: We are proud that the strugglers from our ministry, in cooperation with the strugglers from the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], have also succeeded in carrying out several projects to revive the lands near Saddam River in al-Qadisiyah, Wasit, Dhi Qar, and al-Muthanna Governorates by widening and extending seven streams which draw their water from the Tigris River near al-Kut and al-Ghiraf in Wasit Governorate. Most of these streams intersect with Saddam River to irrigate lands in al-Qadisiyah, al-Muthanna, and Dhi Qar Governorates comprising an area of 815,000 donums, including 50,000 donums of new lands which have not had suitable irrigation water before. The completion of these projects and their inclusion in agricultural production has helped revive many lands which had been buried under sand dunes. Thanks to these projects, these lands have been transformed into suitable agricultural lands. The projects include al-Jihad Stream near al-Kut whose water flows at a capacity of 50 cubic meters per second. It intersects with Saddam River by passing through a siphon under the river to al-Qadisiyah Governorate to join al-Nasr, 17 July, al-Fida', and al-Mukarram Streams. This is not all. Ministry teams have also begun implementing agricultural projects in Dhi Qar, Maysan, and al-Basrah Governorates and are reported to have reached an advanced stage of implementation.

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Some of these projects have already been commissioned into service and the rest will be commissioned during the coming winter season. The area of these projects exceeds 1.25 million donums. They involve taming and developing the Euphrates River from Suq al-Shuykh to al-Qurnah Districts. They include Umm Nakhlah, al-Malihah, and al-Shafi projects on both banks of the river. Similar projects are also being carried out on al-'Izz River in Maysan.

Engineer al-Qasir added: Thanks to the support and guidance of our beloved leader, the historic al-Rasasi irrigation project has been revived to serve an area of more than 120,000 donums in Samarra'. This is in addition to opening up several streams in Maysan to serve an area of about 200,000 donums. Some of these streams were used in the last agricultural season and others will be used this season, God willing. Two irrigation projects have also been carried out to revive agricultural lands in Farid and Balad Districts. Their water, which is obtained from Dhi Qar Governorate, extends to irrigate an area of 40,000 donums in Maysan.

The minister said: Al-Ishaqi canal project has been expanded to add another 50,000 donums; and al-Yusufiyah canal project, which draws its water from the Tigris River, has been completed to irrigate an area of 50,000 donums which have suffered from scarcity of water. The Karabala' Governorate canal system has also been completed to revive lands and orchards which have suffered from shortage of underground water. Another project in al-Najaf has revived an area of more than 25,000 donums which was fully grown with rice and wheat during the two previous seasons with very good results.

The minister added: Work has begun on the eastern Euphrates canal project, which will help revive and serve lands with an estimated area of 1.6 million donums. Another canal project is being carried out in Karbala', which will help revive orchards which have suffered from shortage in underground water. Several irrigation projects are being carried out in al-Muthanna and other governorates in the country and some of them have actually been accomplished.

The minister said that 1994 was marked by a campaign for dredging out streams and canals. The campaign involved 11.5 million tonnes of excavation work. As far as canals are concerned, the dredging involved 9,000 km and the excavation work 2.5 million cubic meters. This work is sufficient to make the canals and streams operational. Our plans for this year include carrying out similar work. He added: There are also major campaigns to repair pumping stations for irrigation and drainage, maintain wells and their pumps, and dig more wells for agricultural purposes. There are also plans to carry out studies and make designs for building small dams in the western desert in order to store flood waters for the purposes of settling communities, increasing arable lands, replenishing underground water in the desert region, and building more desert oases for exploiting the desert and settling bedouins. Several wells have been drilled in Bahr al-Najhaf for use in agriculture. Some 11 such small dams have already been built in valleys and 20 oases with an area of about 20,000 donums have been established. The ministry is serious about expanding on the implementation of small dams and desert oases and digging wells in order to increase arable lands in the western sahara region.

The minister said: We urge the citizens in general and the peasants and farmers in particular to ration water to avoid wastage because rationing water improves agricultural production and increases the yield per donum. On the other hand, excessive use of water raises the level of underground water, thereby affecting the operation of canal networks in such projects. To successfully ration, we call on our brother peasants and farmers to stick to their allocated shares of water, to increase the efficiency of field irrigation, to stick to irrigation timetables, to avoid any encroachment on other people's shares, and to maintain irrigation installations such as regulators, culverts, faucets, etc. and avoid any damage to them.

The minister called on investors, farmers, and peasants to cooperate with the ministry's departments regarding the distribution of water and fair distribution to cultivate the largest area possible in a manner which achieves justice for all beneficiaries. Since the repair and maintenance of irrigation projects is considered most important, we urge the beneficiaries to attach great importance to the question of maintaining their field pumps which fall under their responsibility according to the law, such as dredging out streams whose water flow has dropped to less than 400 liters per second and cleaning collection and field canals in their fields. We also urge citizens to maintain the good quality of water by not throwing any garbage in water supplies. We also call upon the competent government ministries to maintain the quality of water according to international standards and specifications in terms of salinity and other impurities so that it will be suitable for drinking and irrigation. All this should increase the yield per area unity, increase production, and improve the soil.

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Peres Interviewed on Palestinians, Syria Talks

TA0408172095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Peres' office on 4 August — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Where do we stand today, at the end of two weeks of intense negotiations with the Palestinians?

[Peres] Progress was made on a series of issues. There are problems on another line of issues. In general, last week was productive. As I said, there are still several serious issues that need to be resolved and I believe a more significant participation by the leaders will be required for decisions.

[Ganor] Could you be more specific, Mr. Peres, and point out the problems where the talks encounter difficulties?

[Peres] Not on all issues, but I would say that there are problems in the issues of water, electric power, and defining the B and C areas. In fact, we are moving toward functional sovereignty. That is, we are not mapping territories, we are mapping powers in areas A, B, and C.

I want to tell you, I spoke with 'Arafat last night and told him: Sir, where else could you find a country that does what we do. We allow autonomy in Qalqilyah, 9 miles from the sea; Tulkarm, 10 miles from the sea; Ramallah, several kilometers north of Jerusalem; and Bethlehem, several kilometers south of Jerusalem, and no one is pressuring Israel. Israel is a strong country; it owes nothing to anyone and fears no one. A large part of the population opposes what we are doing, and there is still terrorism and the economic boycott. I asked 'Arafat: Tell me, do you understand why we are doing this? We have made a moral choice — we do not want to rule over the Arab nation. This is not a concession; this is an open, deep, and historic choice that we have made.

We are witnessing two phenomena in the world: Bosnia, in the face of which the world is losing hope; and Israel, that brings hope to the world. We are stronger and richer than the Serbs. We could have had Bosnia by now, if I may say so. And yet, we made a political and moral choice and we will follow it. When 'Arafat asked us to promise him this or that, I said: Why should I make such promises. After Gaza, you believed that we intended for Gaza to be the end of the story, and you see this did not happen. The Palestinians can trust Israel's moral and political choice. This is the heart of the issue, and we will follow it and make progress along these lines.

[Ganor] Was he convinced?

[Peres] I do not want to speak for him. We were convinced, and that is enough.

[Ganor] Will this have an impact on next week's talks?

[Peres] I very much hope that we make additional, perhaps decisive progress next week. We are very interested — despite the difficulties — in reaching an agreement on the second part of our agreement with the Palestinians.

[Ganor] What is the expected date for the talks to conclude and the agreement to be signed?

[Peres] I cannot give dates. I believe it is a matter of weeks.

[Ganor] Will you meet Yasir 'Arafat next week?

[Peres] This is possible.

[Ganor] Syria and Israel have been blaming each other for the impasse in the negotiations. In whose court is the ball right now?

[Peres] Between Israel and Syria there is the United States of America. It is the mediator and it has said that the Syrians, not us, have gone back on what they agreed to. The problem is that the Syrians feel there is no rush, and perhaps some in Israel feel that nothing is on fire. As a result, peace is going up in smoke in the meantime. I believe this is a mistake. The Syrians must be more serious and move quicker on the peace process. A peace process cannot be conducted in slow motion. It is a shame because a lot of goodwill is being lost. I believe the Syrians made a mistake. We have agreed that the issue of the early warning stations be discussed in the officers' meeting. They cannot tell us to first make a concession and only then talk. Why? What is the point of talking? I hope that the Syrians learn from at least one thing: They say that Israel does not want peace. Well, we made peace with Egypt and gave back land; we made peace with Jordan and gave back land; we are making peace with the Palestinians and returning power. Perhaps they should learn from this — not only from what is not happening with the Syrians, but from things that have taken place in practice with at least three of our neighbors.

[Ganor] What can be attained by the end of this year, assuming negotiations will resume?

[Peres] Everything or nothing, depending on the tempo. There is a Greek story: A wanderer asked a wise man: How long will it take me to get into town. The wise

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man said: Start walking, and I will tell you after I see your tempo. It all depends on the tempo. If you walk slowly, you will not get there. If you walk properly, you will.

Peres Says Settlements Can Stay; Talks 'Not Stuck'

TA0408121395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the settlements can remain in the territories forever, but that the settlers must change their attitude toward the Palestinians. People like Rabbi Moshe Levinger should not be allowed to determine the nature of these relations, since life by the sword is impossible. He added that relations between Jews and Arabs in the territories should resemble those in many cities in Israel.

Referring to the negotiations with the Palestinians, Peres said they are not stuck and can be concluded within a few weeks. Commenting on the talks on the water issue, the foreign minister said the intention is not to divide the water resources but to divide authority over the water into three zones with varying degrees of authority. At the moment, difficulties persist in defining the authority in two of these three zones. Peres was speaking to our correspondent Dan Margalit.

Peres Briefs Correspondents on Settler Situation

TA0608171795 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 6 Aug 95

[Issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem on 6 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met last Thursday (03.08.95), with correspondents from overseas Jewish media, and answered their questions. Regarding the evacuation of demonstrating settlers, he said that the demonstrations were an attempt to undermine a democratic regime, and were a challenge to the rule of law. He condemned the use of children in the demonstrations, and the fact that they were being used in a political confrontation. He denied both that the Government was abandoning the settlers, and that it was prepared to return to the pre-1967 borders. He cited the dialogue between the Government and the settlers, and said that in the framework of the permanent settlement, Jews could live under Palestinian rule, just as, today, there are Arabs living in the State of Israel. He said that since the Government was not requesting the settlers to leave their homes, he saw no possibility of compensation being offered to them. Regarding the negotiations with Syria, he said that there is no progress because al-Asad is not honoring his commitments. He added that since Syria has no military option against us, peace with Syria is only a matter of time.

'Only' Police Reportedly To Deal With Settlers

TA0708114295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Ya'aqov Galanti]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel Police will be the only force that will deal with rioting settlers in the territories, while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers will provide only regional security and will be called on as reinforcements should the need arise. This was the decision made last night upon consultations at the prime minister's bureau, attended by the ministers of police and justice, the attorney general, and representatives of the police, the army, and the Shin Bet.

It was further decided in the meeting that the police will add men to its legal departments to deal with the rising number of charge sheets filed against settlers who riot in the territories. Some 141 charge sheets will be filed against rioting settlers already in August.

During the discussion, criticism was expressed over the fact that very few charges have so far been pressed against settlers who were detained for rioting, in view of which the police deterrence was diminished. It has been decided that, in order to expedite the handling of these matters, the Petah Tiqva Magistrates Court will dedicate two days a week to exclusively deal with charges filed against Jews in the territories.

Upon emerging from the meeting, Justice Minister David Liba'i said that the government is determined to enforce law and order in Judaea and Samaria. "Citizens must respect and obey the law as the basis for living together and maintaining a political framework. A possible deterioration into a civilian uprising is worrisome and, unless we take the appropriate steps, we might be facing a real revolt. This is the worst threat to the very existence of our democracy."

Minister Liba'i, however, stressed that the government does not seek confrontations and clashes. "The real way out of this problematic state of affairs is for all of us to decide to continue the dialogue and for all the parties involved to respect the law. If expressing opposition to the legitimate government is called for, it should be done within reason and within the framework of the law, without escalating into an uprising or rioting."

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Council of Settlements Decides To Resume Struggle

TA0608133895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of a stormy session today, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip decided to continue their struggle in Judaea and Samaria against the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo Accords — this after it reached the conclusion that the break taken in the struggle has run out without any changes in the prime minister's position.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the council's statement states that the struggle will be resumed unless the government suspends talks with the PLO. At the same time the council agreed to continue the dialogue with the prime minister.

The council heads contacted the president's office director and briefed him on their decision.

Settlers Seen Distancing Themselves From Public

TA0408122295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Isolating Themselves Into Oblivion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is hard to understand exactly what the settlers hope to achieve on the hilltops of Bet El, Hadagan Hill, and Qedumim. If they believe their actions will arouse public sympathy, then they are sadly mistaken. By initiating these confrontations with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], they are achieving the exact opposite of their goal. Indeed, they may actually help the government, which currently hinges on a very narrow parliamentary majority, to regain the public support it has lost in recent months as a result of Palestinian terrorism. Much to their displeasure, they may even see the Rabin Government reelected to power.

Because the public does not like insurrection and will not tolerate a violent minority going outside the democratic process to dictate what the country should or should not do. Accounts are settled at the ballot box, not by challenging the legally elected government; otherwise, there is anarchy. Even those who think the government is acting hastily and making excessive concessions cannot countenance the threat of rebellion against the rule of law.

More than anything else, the public detests the deliberate provocation of the army, with the soldiers' being made to look like fools. Anyone watching the scuffles with the settlers on television felt — to quote Major General 'Amiram Levin — just lousy. The weeping female soldiers, the army psychologist called in to treat soldiers who got their first whiff of internecine conflict, as well as the tangible atmosphere of violence, raised some questions, such as what the hell is this country coming to? After all, we are not talking about a hostile army. These youths are our own children. Many of them are not even 20 years old. Seeing them there, in the oppressive heat, dragging off burly adults laying supine on the ground and clinging to boulders, or alternatively struggling with little children sent by their parents to fight for Eretz Yisra'el was simply an infuriating sight.

True, the settlers swear they "will never raise their hand against IDF soldiers," but what they describe as passive resistance also constitutes violence. They can thank God that they faced confused soldiers and courteous policeman. Had they been French citizens confronted by gendarmes, many of them would have found themselves at the end of their passive demonstration in hospital emergency rooms with broken bones and smashed skulls. When paratroopers, who will be fighting in south Lebanon in a couple of days, are forced to interrupt their training in order to clash with settlers, not only do the latter fail to win over our hearts but even embarrass their supporters in the Likud.

If the settlers intend to pursue this path and carry out their campaign to double the number of settlements, while embarrassing the IDF and driving the soldiers crazy, they will overstep their own declared limits of legitimate protest. The nature of such a conflict is to start off with both parties' rolling their eyes heavenward while promising that "no force will be employed against soldiers" and "no firearms will be used." However, things can rapidly spin out of control and deteriorate into a violent struggle. Today the "children of Eretz Yisra'el" spread out spikes on the road to stop the army vehicles, and tomorrow, in lieu of curses, we will get blows and kicks. Maybe later we will get water cannons and clubs followed by gravel-launchers, rubber bullets, and settler undercover units — this, because no government can tolerate a rebellion. Is this what they want? To leave our democracy with no choice but to defend itself by force?

Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks in 1992 that fateful decisions about peace (and war) call for broad public support apply today as well, although he seems to have forgotten them. A decision to withdraw to the 1967 borders cannot turn on Goldfarb's whim or be based on the vote of the Arabs in the Knesset. This is not a racist remark, but a consequence of the realization that concern for their brethren outdoes their commitment to Zionism.

Still, the Rabin government has not yet decided on such a withdrawal and does not exactly know what it wants. What it does know is that neither the border nor the

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final status of the Palestinian entity will be set, or the removal of even one settlement in the territories will occur during its current term in office. It is a shame that instead of ranting and raving against the settlers who chose to live where they do with the encouragement of both the Alignment and Likud governments, Rabin does not talk to them and explain that all major decisions have really been left to the government that will be elected in 1996. Instead of demanding a referendum now, what is to stop them from fighting for their cause in the upcoming elections?

The next elections will be about the real thing. But the settlers, whose distress is genuine, started the campaign about the nature of the next government too soon and with very high tones.

They are wrong to threaten a rebellion and to embark on a path of violence and insurrection against the legal government. They are thus diverting the public debate from the question of the borders and their own fate to the question of the authority of an elected government to impose the opinion of the majority on a minority. The threat to democracy scares people more than does ceding all the territories. Hence, the settlers are not arousing the public's sympathy but its opposition. They are isolating themselves into oblivion.

Security Around Senior Officials Tightened

TA0608074695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

["Pool" report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Shin Bet has tightened security around Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Ministers Shim'on Peres and Yosi Sarid, and Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq for fear that Jewish extremists might attempt to harm them.

In a meeting of the territories forum on 4 August at the prime minister's bureau, Shin Bet personnel said: "The fact that Rabin, Peres, Sarid, and the chief of staff have been labeled 'traitors' is dangerous. There is a real fear that certain people might misinterpret the calls and attempt to harm one of them."

In the meeting, it was decided not to arrest the instigators at this stage and "to allow the settlers to vent their rage, while keeping their activity under control." [passage omitted]

Rabin Denies Security Tightened

TA0708102995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denied that security around him has been tightened for fear that his life might be in danger. He said reports on the issue were plain nonsense and that security around him had not been tightened. I am sure and I know that I live in a democratic country, Mr. Rabin told our correspondent Karmela Menashe during a tour of a boot camp.

The prime minister emphasized that the government is not adopting a conciliatory policy toward the settlers. People should be allowed to express their opposition to the government's policy, but everything must be done within the law. If digressions occur, we will deal with them as we see fit, the prime minister stated.

Jews Prepare To Mark Holiday at Temple Mount

TA0608045195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We open with Tishah b'Ab, which this year has become the center of a political and religious controversy. The fast, which falls on the 9th of the Hebrew month of Ab, marks the destruction of both the First and Second Temples and other tragedies suffered by the Jewish people. It is unclear at this time whether the Temple Mount will be open to Jewish prayer today.

The Temple Mount Faithful group has announced it will again attempt to pray on the Mount this morning. In previous years, police have prevented members of the group from reaching the site where the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque now stand; but, in response to a petition from the Temple Mount Faithful, the High Court of Justice last week ruled that Jews wishing to pray on the Mount may do so, provided this presents no danger to public order.

Police sources say they may have to close the site to Jews today for security reasons. Thousands of police have been deployed in Jerusalem's Old City to maintain order. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called on Muslims to flock to al-Aqsa to prevent Jewish groups from praying there.

Last night, thousands of Jews prayed at the Western Wall at the start of the fast, and many more are expected today. Hundreds of antigovernment protesters marched around the Old City last night and held a prayer service outside Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's home in Jerusalem. Hundreds of Efrat residents prayed on Hadagan Hill, the hill from which they were evicted last week. The two-hour prayer was coordinated with the army. Police have stepped up security today not only in Jerusalem but also around the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and at Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus, where Tishah b'Ab prayers will be held.

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All restaurants and places of entertainment are closed in Israel for the fast, which ends at 12 minutes past 8 tonight. Banks and post offices are open and buses are running.

Rabbinical authorities have discouraged Jews from praying on the Mount, which is also sacred to Muslims.

Police Close Temple Mount To Prevent Violence

TA0608092095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following consultations this morning between the heads of the Jerusalem police and waqf, it has been decided that the Temple Mount will be closed to both Jews and Arabs until further notice to prevent violence and friction between the two parties. Earlier this morning, the police tried to allow several Jews to enter the Temple Mount to mark the Tishah b'Ab fast, but the Muslims there chased them away time and again.

Tensions Said High

TA0608171195 (Internet) Shomron News Service in English 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The tension mounts in Jerusalem's Old City this morning as the police and Moslem Waqf guards prepare. After last week's Supreme Court ruling permitting the members of the "Temple Mount Faithful" organization to go up to the Temple Mount, the Israeli police are completing the appropriate security arrangements.

Moslem Authority spokesmen have already stated that under no circumstances will the group be permitted entry to the site. "This is a line that will not be crossed. We have already closed down the Mount to all visitors to ensure the members of the Jewish group do not attempt to sneak in as visitors. The Mount will remain closed today. We control who enters and we decide what is permitted on this site" stated a PLO Minister whose duties include supervision over the Mount.

The Jerusalem Police Commander stated that they are ready for any situation. Large numbers of police have been brought into the Old City. Sharpshooters have been set up in strategic locations. The Commander stated he expected an uneventful morning but experience has shown they must be ready for anything. Despite statements made this morning by PLO representatives and Waqf workers, the Police Commander expected the Jews to go up to the Mount and he did not anticipate any trouble. The Commander reiterated "The Jerusalem Police decide who will enter the Mount. They [the Waqf] have no right to shut down the Mount. We will decide when it [the Mount] is opened or closed. The Police are in charge of security in Jerusalem and no other authority."

The Waqf has already called for Moslems to make their way to the Mount. This appears to be in preparation for a conflict with Jews. Several dozen Moslems are reported to be on the Mount this morning.

The Jerusalem Police Commander added that the Jews will be permitted to go up to the Mount but no praying will be tolerated. "This group just wants to go up and that is okay but if they try to pray like that other group of fanatics, they will be removed at once. Praying [for Jews] is not permitted. We must draw the line."

Dr. Gershon Solomon, the Head of the "Temple Mount Faithful" stated they will go up to the Mount at 9:30am.

The second small group of Jews (numbering two-three persons) were permitted to enter the Temple Mount area by Jerusalem Police. The groups were greeted by Arabs shouting "Allah Akbar" ("Allah is great") and pushing and shoving. Jerusalem police decided to escort the groups outside of the Temple Mount area in an effort to prevent the incidents from escalating to an unrest or rioting.

Five groups of Jews are now reported as having been forced off the Mount by Arabs that threatened the groups. Police ordered the five groups off the Mount to prevent any large incidents of unrest.

Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz, Jerusalem Police commander Arye 'Amit, representatives of the Moslem Waqf and Faysal al-Husayni are all meeting to discuss this morning's incidents on the Temple Mount in which Jews were forced off the site by Arab mobs. The Police spokesman stated that such a condition would not be tolerated. Arabs do not have the right to prevent peaceful Jewish groups from entering the Holy site.

The Temple Mount has been closed to all worshippers of all faiths after the five groups of Jews were evicted this morning. A group of several hundred Jews are now standing outside the approaches to the Temple Mount. They group refuses to abide by a police request to leave the area. They state they want to go up to the Mount and are not willing to be taken out because the Arabs threaten violence.

Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz has stated that the Temple Mount has been shut down for fear of riots erupting in East Jerusalem. Hafetz added that the cry has already been sent out via the mosques to come to the Temple Mount. Hefetz added that "this is a very sensitive area and we do not have to fuel the fire. The entire East Jerusalem area is very tense and we do not want an all out riot situation."

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Likud Member Calls For Closure of Orient House

TA0608081995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 95 p 2

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A visit yesterday by some 250 Israeli-Arab schoolchildren to Orient House, where they met with Faysal al-Husayni and chanted "one land, one land," has led Likud MK [Knesset member] Yehoshu'a Matza to call an urgent meeting of the Knesset Interior Committee to discuss Orient House's role as a center for inciting Israeli Arabs. A Channel One report on the visit showed the youngsters, who were on a summer camp trip, meeting with al-Husayni. A number of them said they did not feel Israeli. Matza, who heads the committee, called on Rabin to close down Orient House in eastern Jerusalem immediately because it has become 'Arafat's incitement mosque.

Sources Deny Hizballah-Falastin Claim on Attack

TA0508183195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli sources say that at this point there is no confirmation to the claim made by the Hizballah-Falastin organization that the terrorist who blew up the bus in Ramat Gan was Jamal Fayiz Yusuf, a Jordanian citizen who resided in a refugee camp near Irbid in northern Jordan.

Ahmad Muhanna, the head of the organization, today repeated his claim to the effect that this organization, rather than Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], is responsible for the attack in Ramat Gan.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari notes that in the past Muhanna had assumed responsibility for various attacks, but these claims most often turned out to be false.

Merom: Labor Must Prepare for Early Elections

TA0608065395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Will the Knesset elections be advanced and held as early as next May? A demand to this effect has been raised in Labor in view of the defeat the coalition suffered last week in the Knesset. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar has the details:

[Begin recording] [Shahar] The defeat the coalition suffered last week in the Knesset vote gave rise to a demand in Labor that the party prepare for the possibility of early elections. Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom says that the elections may be held as early as next May.

[Merom] What we witnessed last week during the vote on the amendment to the Golan Law might recur with a vengeance. There could be a situation in which the government presents its budget for the Knesset's approval and three Golan faithful from Labor or elsewhere in the coalition say that the budget will not pass unless the Golan Law is amended.

[Shahar] Last month, Labor was to have appointed a chairman to the committee charged with updating the party census, but the appointment has been put off again and again. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wants to appoint Minister Moshe Shahal; Minister Efrayim Sne has stated he wants the job; and Ministers 'Uzi Bar'am and Yosi Beilin believe this is not a post for a minister. Hagay Merom says:

[Merom] I believe we have fallen behind in terms of Labor's preparations for the elections. I believe we must quickly prepare now. Everyone feels that there is time, that the party chairman will be elected in May, and that the primaries will be held in July 1996; the timetable may have to be reduced, however, and Labor may find itself caught with its pants down and not properly prepared for the next elections.

[Shahar] At the same time, senior Labor members, including the prime minister, have rejected this assessment, claiming that when the Knesset members are called upon to vote on issues that might threaten to topple the government, it will become apparent that this government has a clear majority. [end recording]

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Writer Urges Solidarity With WTC Suspect

JN0608130495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Aug 95 p 34

[Article by Hamadah Fara'inah: "A Committee for the Defense of Iyad Najm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The way suspect Iyad Najm gave himself up to U.S. authorities on the backdrop of the World Trade Center [WTC] blast confirms that we are a proud people worthy of life and dignity.

Iyad took this initiative to spare himself the extradition procedures. He and his family did not hesitate to face trial because he has confidence in himself, knowing that the charges against him lack proof and are no more than mere suspicions. Therefore, the acquittal or conviction of the young citizen Iyad is the concern of all of us because it will reflect on us just like many other cases that were private at first, but eventually became public in the opinion of the western world, which is possessed by a feeling of superiority over and contempt for the Arabs due to Zionist and Jewish influence.

We have a moral, political, and ethical interest in Iyad Najm's acquittal. This acquittal, however, requires among other things the formation of a voluntary committee to defend the university student Iyad Najm.

Our Palestinian people managed in the 1980's to help Ziyad Abu-'Ayn's family, and his case became the concern of the Palestinian people. Dozens of lawyers volunteered to defend him, while the poor before the rich volunteered to pay his defense expenses. Today, Iyad needs a similar action on the part of Jordanians. True, Iyad Najm is charged with a terrorist crime, while Ziyad was charged with resisting the occupiers, but the two cases have a common political dimension although Iyad stands a better acquittal chance.

Our solidarity with Iyad is not and will not be out of support for terrorism or terrorist acts. On the contrary, we are among those nations that abhor terrorism because we have suffered a great deal at the hands of colonists and their tools all over the Arab homeland. We support Iyad Najm because his case is political and his trial will turn into one for all Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, his innocence is morally, politically, and ethically significant. This should prompt us to find a means that would guarantee to our citizen a fair and legal trial uninfluenced by the charged political atmosphere there.

Iyad Najm is in need of an open solidarity committee. Who, then, will take the first step? We are waiting.

U.S. Asked To Let Parents Attend Trial

JN0708075895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Text] (J.T.)—The Foreign Ministry has appealed to U.S. authorities to allow the parents of Iyad Nejem, the Jordanian citizen charged with involvement in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing [WTC], to attend the trial of their son, the Jordan news agency, Petra, reproted Sunday [6 August].

The 24-year-old Nejem is accused of driving the vehicle that transported the bomb into the World Trade Centre.

He was extradited from Jordan to the U.S. last Thursday.

Petra said Justice Minister Hisham al-Tal assured Nejem's parents at a meeting in his office Sunday that the government was in continuous contact with U.S. officials with regard to the parents' request to be allowed to attend their son's trial.

Nejem pleaded not guilty to conspiracy chagres related to the blast that killd six people, injured 1,000 and caused millions of dollars in damage to the 110-storey twin towers in Manhattan.

Nejem, who has been assigned a court-appointed lawyer at Manhattan Federal Court, was ordered to reappear in court on Aug. 16.

"He is charged with the planning stages, execution stages and particularly transportation of the bomb," U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White told a news conference before Nejem's arraignment.

The accused's father, Mahmoud Nejem, told Reuters on Thursday: "I have a sweeping feeling that he is innocent because he chose to go to New York and to meet the officials there."

King Says Iraq Seeks Direct Dialogue With U.S.

JN0408181195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that the Jordanian leadership and people are interested in promoting relations with the Qatari leadership and people in various fields.

His majesty said: We will always be alongside Qatar with all our capabilities and resources. He pointed out that what groups both families and leaderships in Qatar and Jordan is pure brotherhood.

In an interview with the Qatari News Agency, his majesty said that Jordanian-Qatari relations are strong and deep and that they grow constantly. He expressed

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pride in his meeting with his highness the Qatari amir and in his visit to Doha.

Asked about the Amman economic summit, his majesty said this summit will complement the Casablanca summit and will provide an opportunity to introduce the region to the world under the atmosphere of peace which will also provide large opportunities to achieve construction on the level of man, life, and economy in the region.

Regarding the peace process, his majesty said he hopes the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will be the cornerstone of a comprehensive and full peace in the region.

His majesty added: With respect to the brothers in Syria and Lebanon, we have started from the same point in Madrid. Our Palestinian brothers went ahead of us and continue with the timetable they had set for themselves. As for our Egyptian brothers, they were the first to move toward peace. We hope that the process will continue to allow the individual in this region to live a normal life, of which he was deprived for a long time.

On the relations that Jordan and his majesty have with the international parties which influence developments in the world and how these relations can be employed to end the tribulation of the Iraqi people and the siege imposed on them, his majesty said: In this respect, I have spoken to all the parties in the world on the tribulation of the brothers and relatives in Iraq and the need to have Iraq reassume its suitable position.

His majesty urged the world to clearly define its position toward Iraq and wondered what else Iraq should offer other than what it has already offered. He said: If there are some specific points the world wants from Iraq, then these should be announced and there should be a discussion and dialogue on these points to reach results.

His majesty said: Iraq seeks a direct dialogue with the United States and the various parties. It has failed to achieve that goal, despite the fact that most of the parties in the world have opened such a dialogue in various parts of the world that saw similar crises and problems.

Paper Urges 'Rehabilitation' of Iraq

JN0608134695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Aug 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Ekeus' Last Mission?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with the implementation of Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq, is now in what is widely perceived as his last mission. Mr. Ekeus has recently said that Iraq's germ warfare programme was the last outstanding issue between the U.N. and Baghdad. The Iraqi government has also declared that it was willing and ready to provide the visiting U.N. team with all necessary information about this subject and has set the end of August as a deadline for UNSCOM to finish its mandate in the country. Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, appeared less prepared to welcome all the positive developments on the Iraqi front when she told a recent Senate debate that Iraq could not be trusted to give full data on its biological weapons. This prejudgment on Iraq's intentions is counter- productive and cannot serve as an inducement for Baghdad to cooperate fully with the U.N. on the remaining issue.

There is a growing feeling in the Arab and Muslim worlds and among many Security Council members that Iraq has abided by all the requirements of the Security Council resolutions. Many people in the Middle East have a vested interest in the complete rehabilitation of Iraq into the region. His Majesty King Husayn has aptly pointed out to this recently when he said that Iraq is an important Arab country which has yet to play its natural role for consolidating the peace process in the area. "I believe that within the framework of peace in the region Iraq, with its vast potentials, can play a role in the establishment of peace," the King said. Without the participation of Baghdad in the peace process there might not be a genuine and comprehensive peace in the region. Jordan is more than ready to take up the necessary initiative to end the existing abberation in regional stability.

The big powers, especially the U.S. and Britain, should spell out their demands from the Iraqi regime and then should start a dialogue with Baghdad in order to put an end to an odd situation that has inflicted the region for the past five years. The rehabilitation of Iraq, political and economically, would strengthen and give fresh impetus to the peace process.

Spokesman Condemns Israeli Court Ruling on Mosque

JN0608152095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman for the Jordanian Government has stated the following:

The Jordanian Government has been following with great interest and deep concern what is taking place in holy Jerusalem, particularly in the courtyards of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two qiblas, the third holiest shrine, the point of departure for the prophet's midnight journey to the seven heavens, and the religious and spiritual symbol of Muslims all over the world.

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The Jordanian Government has received with deep regret the Israeli Supreme Court ruling allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to enter the holy al-Aqsa Mosque to perform prayers there. The government condemns that ruling and considers it null and void because it hurts the feelings of Muslims and because it will hamper the peace process and harm the credibility of the Israeli side.

The Jordanian Government stresses that it is the duty of the Israeli authorities to protect the holy al-Aqsa Mosque in accordance with the second provision of Article 9 of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty and to maintain the peace process, through which we all are trying to achieve the goal of establishing a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in order to preserve the rights of all parties without any discrimination.

The Jordanian Government reiterates its firm position that Jerusalem and its eternal holy shrines are occupied Arab land, as stipulated in all the resolutions of the international legitimacy. Therefore, the Jordanian Government has asked the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs to act through its organs in holy Jerusalem to follow up the situation very carefully and to do its best to safeguard and maintain al-Aqsa Mosque.

Refugee Conditions Discussed With U.S. Official

JN0608185495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim al-Tarshihi, director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, has held talks with Michael Metrinko, director of the Refugees and Immigration Department at the U.S. State Department, on conditions of camps in Jordan and ways to improve and develop them and to carry out service projects in them.

At the beginning of the meeting, al-Tarshihi reviewed the aid and services Jordan has extended to the Palestinian refugees in all walks of life.

He added that the current peace process in the region requires further efforts by the peace process sponsors to ease the suffering of the Palestinian refugees. He also stressed the need for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] to maintain its activities until a just solution to their cause is found. Jordan, he said, believes that any decision to reduce the budget that is covering relief to the Palestinian refugees will harm their interests and their legitimate rights because it will reflect negatively on the peace process. He also called for expanding the international services rendered through the UNRWA in a balanced and fair manner in light of their numbers in hosting countries.

For his part, Metrinko stressed the importance of coordination among donor countries, UNRWA, and the Jordanian Government to render the best services to the Palestinian refugees. He said his country will increase aid to the Palestinian refugees through the peace project being carried out by UNRWA.

During his visit to Jordan, Metrinko will acquaint himself with services rendered to the Palestinian refugees in the camps of the kingdom, as well as ways to improve their conditions, in order to define their needs.

Crown Prince Receives PA Tourism Minister

JN0308203195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism in the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA]. Frayj conveyed to his highness the greetings of the PA chairman and members to His Majesty King Husayn. During the meeting, Frayj iterated the PA's appreciation for the stand adopted by the leadership and people of Jordan in supporting the Palestinian people in their just cause and in backing the PA's march toward restoring the Palestinian people's rights through the ongoing peace negotiations with Israel.

Frayj briefed His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on the general situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas and their need for basic services as well as infrastructure. He also informed him about the water issue, which represents one of the major pending problems in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan stressed the need to highlight the Jerusalem issue from the stand point of values, noting that the Hashemite leadership is keen on this. His highness also reiterated Jordan's continuous support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Frayj noted the special historical and everlasting relations between Jordan and Palestine. He added: Based on these special relations, we aspire to deepen cooperation in all sectors and fields.

Moreover, the two sides discussed a number of issues of interest to the two fraternal peoples and fields of cooperation and coordination in various fields.

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King Husayn on Peace Process, Arab Relations

JN0408122795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Report on interview with King Husayn by Ahmad Jasim al-Hamar, director and chief editor of the QATARI NEWS AGENCY; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that the Jordanian leadership and people are interested in promoting relations with the Qatari leadership and people in various fields.

His majesty said: We will always be alongside Qatar with all our capabilities and resources. He added that Jordanian-Qatari relations are strong and deep and that they grow constantly.

In an interview with Ahmad Jasim al-Hamar, director and chief editor of the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, his majesty expressed pride in his meeting with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and in his visit to Doha. He pointed out that what groups both families and leaderships in Qatar and Jordan is pure brotherhood.

His majesty said: On behalf of the Jordanian leadership, government, and people, I conveyed to his highness the amir congratulations and blessings on his assumption of power in Qatar as well as best wishes of a prosperous future for him and the Qatari people. We stressed that our fraternity will continue to lead us on the path of welfare for our two countries and peoples and for the Arab nation in our great Arab Homeland.

Asked about his vision regarding a mechanism to promote Qatari-Jordanian relations in the future, His Majesty King Husayn said: On the Qatari-Jordanian level, the mechanism exists through our direct contact as two leaderships and governments and also through the exchange of meetings between officials and through both peoples' pursuit of ways of cooperation on the widest level.

Regarding the Middle East economic summit which will be held in Amman in October and its similarity with the international economic summit on the Middle East which was held in Casablanca last year, as well as the expected results of the Amman summit and how much it is linked to the reports on establishing a Middle East market in the post-peace phase, his majesty explained that the Amman summit will complement the Casablanca summit. However, the Amman summit will differ from the Casablanca summit in that it will provide an opportunity to introduce the region to the world under the new atmosphere of peace, which will also provide sizable opportunities to achieve construction on the level of man, life, and economy in the region.

His majesty said: The Amman summit will be more specific regarding the economic issues. The world, with its various states and groupings, can join us in the progress we all seek to achieve on the level of this region. He voiced hope that the Arabs will be able to give the image they aspire to achieve in the future through a common concept regarding the region's future on the human and economic levels. His majesty expected good results out of this summit for which Jordan is now making good preparations.

Concerning the Arab-Israeli peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Israeli tracks, his majesty said: As far as we in Jordan are concerned, and regarding the steps taken thus far on the path of peace, we hope and wish that Jordan's steps will be the cornerstone of a comprehensive and full peace in the region.

He asserted that Jordan supports achieving this comprehensive and full peace, particularly the kind of peace that will give the Palestinians their full rights on their national soil under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His Majesty King Husayn said Jordan supports and encourages the Palestinian side in the peace process in spite of the difficulties the Palestinian side encounters in its negotiations with the Israeli side. He said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will be employed to help attain a comprehensive peace and serve the Palestinians.

His majesty said: With respect to the brothers in Syria and Lebanon, we have started from the same point in Madrid. Our Palestinian brothers went ahead of us and continue with the timetable they had set for themselves. As for our Egyptian brothers, they were the first to move toward peace in the Middle East. We hope that the peace process will continue on all the tracks for attaining the same objective and goal; allowing the individual in this region, particularly the Arab individual, to live a natural life of which he was deprived for a long time, in a manner that will realize his aspirations for stability, peace, prosperity, and progress.

On the relations Jordan and his majesty have with the international parties which influence developments in the world and how these relations are employed to end the tribulation of the Iraqi people and the siege on them, his majesty said: In this respect, I spoke to all the parties in the world on the tribulation of the brothers and relatives in Iraq and the need to have Iraq reassume a suitable position in the region and the world in light of the new state of world affairs. His majesty added: I pursue my efforts to reach results in this respect. I believe that it is important that the world must now clearly define its stand on what Iraq is required to do. His Majesty King Husayn wondered what more Iraq

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should offer than what it has done? He said: If there are some specific points the world wants from Iraq, let there be a discussion and dialogue on these points to reach results. His majesty added: In light of the current peace process, I believe that Iraq, as part of this region and in view of the huge resources it possesses, can play a role in this peace. Without its role, there can be no real and comprehensive peace.

On his majesty's efforts to mend Arab relations and restore Arab solidarity, particularly through his recent visits to Egypt and Qatar, and his expected visit to Tunisia and the visualization he has in this respect, His Majesty King Husayn said he believes that the Arab nation moves slowly in this direction, and that he regrets this. However, he said that the feelings all in the Arab arena now have, after the nation has reached one of the most difficult stages of its life, is that solidarity and coordination is a must for the Arab countries and people in one form or the other.

His majesty stressed the need to expedite the attainment of cooperation and solidarity among the Arab countries and people at present and in the future in the interest of the Arab individual.

Paper: Banking-Currency Talks Held With Israel

JN0508093295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ASWAQ has learned that Jordanian and Israeli officials held intensive talks last week, which dealt with cooperation between Jordan and Israel in the currency and banking fields. This is in order to pave the way for a joint action formula on future cooperation in these fields. These talks were shrouded in complete secrecy.

This is considered the first time that the two sides held talks on cooperation in the currency and banking fields since signing the Jordanian—Israeli peace treaty last October.

Officials in the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], where these talks were held, declined to reveal the issues discussed with the Israeli side at the end of last week.

They just said that they held routine meetings with officials in the Bank of Israel to discuss means to overcome problems which face branches of Jordanian The talks, which lasted two days, were headed on the Jordanian side by CBJ Deputy Governor Dr. Michel Martu and on the Israeli side by a senior official in the Bank of Israel, and were attended by a number of experts.

It is noteworthy that Article 7 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty stipulates the two sides should to exert efforts to develop economic relations between them, including cooperation and the banking and currency fields.

Ministers Confer With Yemen's al-Iryani

JN0608204395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office this evening Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Amman this afternoon. They reviewed cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as the latest Arab, regional, and international developments.

The two sides also reviewed the results of the meetings the Higher Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Committee held in Sanaa on 18 June, as well as steps taken toward implementing the committee's decisions and recommendations. They also discussed joint Jordanian-Yemeni efforts to restore and activate Arab solidarity, as well as the role of the two fraternal countries in achieving that goal.

In statements to the press following the meeting, Dr. al-Iryani stressed that Jordan and Yemen are extremely interested in restoring Arab solidarity. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Soon after his arrival in Amman this afternoon, the Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister met with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al—Kabariti. They discussed latest Arab and regional developments as well as joint Jordanian-Yemeni efforts to entrench Arab solidarity and bilateral relations.

Minister on Preparations for Economic Conference

JN0508170795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has presided over a meeting at his office of the Consultative Economic Council. Discussions dealt with Jordan's preparations for the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit due to be held here in Amman next October.

The prime minister pointed out that the public and private sectors share a joint responsibility towards making the summit a success . He called on all parties concerned to double their efforts and coordinate their work.

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Al-Sharif Zayd promised the cabinet will review remarks put forward by the council's members on arrangements for the conference working mechanism of the higher preparatory committee and other relative commissions as well as proposed projects.

Earlier the Minister of Industry and Trade, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, who is the president of the preparatory committee, presented the council with a working paper about the country's official and national preparations for the gathering.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib unveiled that in its latest meeting in Amman, the steering committee which was set up at the Casablanca summit of last year, decided the forthcoming conference focus on four major areas. He said those include the infrastructure, industry and trade, financing and investment, and the economic atmosphere.

He added that focus must be made on a number of industries and projects, and on the enhancement of the role of the private sector and setting up a specialized workshops on different sectors.

The minister said the would-be participants are now exchanging views on the prospective outcome of Amman conference and its final declaration. He said the final communique is expected to announce the launch of some regional projects, and a signing of the documents for the establishment of Mideast Development Bank, the formation of a regional tourism council, and another for the businessmen in the region.

The minister said the private sector would be on the same footing with the public sector as both would be full partners to reconstruct and rehabilitate the Mideast region. He went on to say that the private sector will be invited to take part in the infrastructure projects.

On Jordanian projects to be presented to the conference, the minister said that there are four categories, the first of which includes 27 projects at an estimated cost of about 3.5 billion dollars, covering diverse development sectors. He said these projects would be implemented by either the private or the public sectors or by both.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib said Jordan would submit to Amman economic gathering a cluster of regional development projects in coordination with the parties involved, including Egypt, the Palestine National Authority, and Israel. The minister also indicated that each of these parties would propose their national projects separately.

Meanwhile, the working paper mentioned detailed Jordanian efforts to prepare for the conference. It indicated that official invitations were sent to heads of state, the premiers, the presidents of international and regional organizations, foreign finance and economic ministers, as well as well-known Arab and world personalities and businessmen from the private sector who would be guests on the government.

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Buwayz on Stagnation in Talks, Ties With U.S.

NC0408103595 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 1 Aug 95 pp 3, 15

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Milhim Karam at the Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Karam] The negotiations seem to be stagnant right now. Why do you think this is so?

[Buwayz] Despite signals from the Israeli officials that they are interested in the peace process, it is clear that Rabin has yet to decide on whether to make peace and on the timing of this decision. Rabin is fluctuating between completing the peace process before the elections or delaying this process until after the elections. Rabin is fluctuating between completing this process under the current U.S. Administration or waiting for another U.S. Administration to complete the process. Undoubtedly this hesitation is typical of the nature of the man. Anyone familiar with Rabin the officer in the Sinai war knows this man is a tactician and hesitant by nature. But I believe any delay by Israel in responding to the Arab demands, particularly the Lebanese and Syrian demands, poses several dangers.

First, it is not certain that Rabin's escape from the peace process will win him the elections; on the contrary. I believe Rabin's only merit is that in the eyes of some Israelis he can make peace. If he fails to do that, I believe the Israeli public will choose the Likud, which is the natural rejectionist leadership.

Second, the second miscalculation is that the current U.S. Administration is interested in the peace process for various reasons, some of them may be domestic. This administration is eager to score an international diplomatic victory, even if the cost is sacrifice in terms of effort, money, etc. But it is not certain that the next U.S. Administration, which will operate on the basis of reducing U.S. military, political, and financial involvement abroad, will show the same interest or will be prepared to effectively participate in any of the elements of peace.

Third, I believe Rabin's negative attitude does not take into account the acute rivalry in the Arab world between the positive and moderate elements on the one hand and the rejectionists on the other. Any delay will encourage those who reject a just and comprehensive peace and those who wager on delaying the negotiations to blow up the whole process.

Thus, I believe that Israel's playing with time could be a very serious gamble. The conditions in the Middle East can be no better than they are now as far as the peace process is concerned. By this I mean that neither the Arab regimes nor the Arab leaders will be any better than now. Thus, I believe that Israel is again wasting an opportunity for a reasonable and acceptable peace, which is now possible and within reach. [passage omitted]

[Karam] Some reports say the U.S. Administration will partially lift the travel ban to Lebanon soon. How true is this and is Lebanon's recent receipt of 16 helicopters for the Lebanese Army an indication of better Lebanese-U.S. relations?

[Buwayz] If it is true that the conditions in Lebanon following the war or Lebanese events justified the adoption of particular U.S. measures, from the U.S. perspective at the time, it is not true that U.S. policy in the past four years was proportionate to the progress in Lebanon, be it in the security, political, economic, or other fields. I believe the U.S. Administration is slow to reconsider some of the measures that may have been justified at one time, naturally from the U.S. perspective. Some of the steps, such as reopening the U.S. Consulate in Beirut, arming the Lebanese Army, and abrogating the ban on the sale of tickets, are naturally positive signs, even if they are slow and even if it is justified and logical now for Lebanese-U.S. ties to return to normal. [passage omitted]

Dallul Remarks on Israeli Military Pressure

NC0408115895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that the Israeli military pressure in south Lebanon will not affect Lebanon's steadfastness and will not produce any political result.

At a public rally in Hawsh al-Harimi in western al-Biqa', Dallul noted that the peace talks have stalled because Israel has gone back on what it agreed upon [with Syria] in Washington. He said Israel does not simply want peace, but the surrender of Lebanon and Syria through an agreement similar to the Palestinian or the Jordanian agreements.

Reacting to recent remarks by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Dallul said resistance is a legitimate and national right. We can only support and help the resistance. The occupation authorities will not benefit from any excuse to justify their presence in the south and western al-Biqa. Dallul said: Let them leave our land and go. Rabin said his patience has run out. Our patience has run out too. Our land is occupied. Our people are held hostage. Every day our women and children are shelled.

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Minister Dallul said the Lebanese people are standing fast and adhering to their rights. He said pressure on Lebanon will not affect or undermine us. We must unite and melt in one national crucible. We must safeguard our national rights. This requires making sacrifices for our homeland and people.

Al-Hariri Cited on French Ties, Peace Treaty

NC0408170195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated that the Lebanese Government has made Lebanon a tax paradise. He described Lebanese-French political relations as good and unique, but noted that economic ties have not reached the same level. He said this should not be the standard and added that France must play a role in speeding up investment in Lebanon.

In an interview with the French publication LE POINT, al-Hariri denied that his government ignores social problems in Lebanon. He said that in just three years, public sector salaries have increased 125 percent, while inflation has not risen above 40 percent.

Replying to a question on whether Lebanon is willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel, he said everything depends on Israel. He remarked that if a peace treaty were to be signed, an economic conflict would develop between the two countries.

Hizballah Radio Views Gulf War's Repercussions

NC0608110995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Aug 95

[From the "Pause With an Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth anniversary of Saddam's aggression against Kuwait has passed without much furor. However, the occasion was not totally devoid of resounding stances and empty quixotic threats. In Baghdad, the regime is trying to find itself while trying to deceive the Iraqi people. It still thinks it won even though it was mauled in defeat and disgrace.

The Iraqi media commemorated what it called the historic, national, and pan-Arab anniversary, saying it will remain forever in the hearts of honest Iraqis and Arabs, and all strugglers in the world, as the newspaper BABIL, which is run by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, said. AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the decision to invade Kuwait was made as a natural response to what it described as U.S. and Kuwaiti plots against Iraq. However, the Iraqi newspapers this year did not call Kuwait the 19th Iraqi province. Otherwise, the occasion would have provided the Iraqi papers with an opportunity to emphasize the intransigence of the Iraqi authorities and to turn a blind eye to the military, political, and economic realities. The papers would have reported as if Saddam was still as strong as before.

However, despite the Iraqi authorities' recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders last November, the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH warned the al-Sabah clan amirs against plotting against Iraq. It said that the Kuwaiti rulers forget that the embargo will be lifted sooner or later and then neither the United States nor anyone else can protect the Kuwaitis. The paper urged the Kuwaiti rulers to read this sentence well before it is too late. Anyway, it is clear from the Iraqi papers' reports that the Iraqi regime persists in its rough path which will only lead to further conflagrations.

In Washington, the 2 August anniversary provided President Clinton with an opportunity to celebrate and reassert his determination to keep the economic sanctions on Iraq and, consequently, the oppressed Iraqi people. The Iraqi people are victims who have been dismembered by Saddam's claws and the U.S. Administration's fangs, particularly those of former President George Bush. To fabricate a fierce image for Saddam, President Clinton said that Saddam's policy and actions still pose unusual dangers for U.S. national security and foreign policy, as well as for regional peace and security.

Observers consider President Clinton's statement to be a message to the Gulf states to continue to pay for the U.S. military presence in the region so it will protect them from the major tyrant, who even poses a threat to the U.S. national security. This extortionist logic has led to skyrocketing debts for a number of the Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who are overburdened by tens of billions of dollars in debt. These burdens are causing not only new economic repercussions but may also involve the structure, systems, and the governments of these countries. The first sign was the cabinet reshuffle in Saudi Arabia. Five years after the Gulf war and 20 years since the formation of the latest government in Saudi Arabia after the assassination of King Faysal in 1975, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz declared the formation of a new government, relieving two main ministers of the former cabinet—the oil minister and the finance minister. The change also involved the information minister. The reasons for this reshuffle are largely economic. Saudi Arabia has been suffering from a lack of liquidity as a result of the decline in oil prices and its enormous commitments after the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

At any rate, sources close to the Saudi authorities say that the reasons for the cabinet reshuffle are technical

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and not political. They maintain that the economic and social changes in the kingdom made fresh premises [faradiyah] necessary for the new generation. Unofficial sources are not convinced that the reasons for the change were technical. However, the refused to disclose their information. Information that was leaked some time ago to this effect indicated that the political situation in Saudi Arabia is not stable. Certain analyses go so far as to question whether King Fahd will abdicate and leave power to others. The same sources say that King Fahd has mustered his utmost financial and political influence to buy a huge real estate project in Geneva.

This has raised questions and speculations about the future regime in Saudi Arabia. If King Fahd intends to abdicate in order to end the power struggle within the ruling clan in the interest of his brothers, who share power with him, it is clear that the struggle within the ruling clan and the economic deterioration buffeting the country for years are good reasons to change the facade and the hats. The budget deficit, $70 billion in debts, corruption, and the decline in oil prices have prompted the Saudi people to question the future of their country, particularly when they recall the rival factions within the regime, who are vying to get a share of the funds.

Certain sources say that King Fahd possesses billions of dollars, dozens of palaces in Saudi Arabia and abroad, and a $60 billion yacht equipped with an antiaircraft missile system. In addition, King Fahd's brothers and their sons are also striving to collect wealth and to buy armed yachts, private planes, and expensive real estate. Thus, observers have a right to ask if the former Saudi government was the victim of the economic crisis or of the political crisis and the war of the palaces. If the reasons are political, will the issue be settled by replacing ministers or will it involve the kings? However, the example of Qatar will remain in the back of their minds.

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Security Talks With Turkey Reportedly To Resume

JN0508124595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed Syrian sources have told our radio that the Turkish-Syrian bilateral security meetings will be held in Turkey after the middle of this month [August] under Major General Rafiq Gharib on the Syrian side and (Kamil Tegalioglu), assistant director of the Turkish Interior Ministry's General Security Department, on the Turkish side.

The talks, which are a follow-up to the open security dialogue between the two countries will deal with ways to strengthen security ties and promote them concerning all security issues. Discussions will also touch on the latest findings of the two countries in the field of combating drugs and cooperation on border security. Turkey is complaining of the movements of the Kurdistan Workers Party and Syria complains of the infiltration of Kurds into the north of the country.

Radio: Israel Should Drop Ground Station Demand

JN0408150795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israel has continued to obstruct the resumption of talks between the two ambassadors in Washington. Israeli television said Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected the U.S. efforts to resume the talks before a date is fixed for the military talks.

It is known that Israel was the one which aborted these talks by making impossible demands that conflict with Syria's sovereignty over the Golan and the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines when it demanded setting up an early warning ground station, which all observers agree is an entrenchment of occupation under security pretexts.

In order to end the current stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track, the U.S. Administration proposed resuming the ambassadorial talks and held contacts for this purpose. Syria responded positively out of its desire to rescue the peace process and move ahead toward the realization of the aspired objectives of the peace process. It is important to reach an understanding on the general principles before holding new military talks because Israel employed these talks in order to make impossible conditions that Syria can never accept and that conflict with Syria's insistence on restoring the entire Golan and eliminating all forms of Israeli occupation.

Syria proceeded from the principles of full withdrawal and equitable [mutakafi'] security when it agreed to hold military talks aimed at reaching equitable and symmetrical [mutanazirah] arrangements on both sides of 4 June 1967 borderline in harmony with the agreement reached on the broad lines of mutual security through the U.S. efforts.

After engaging in these talks, Syria realized that Israel was continuing its intransigent positions which openly conflict with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which do not allow for occupation and call for full Israeli withdrawal. It is clear that Israel deliberately creates obstacles in order to sabotage the entire peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks after it has realized that Syria and Lebanon unequivocally reject any Israeli presence on their territories under any name, and that they link peace to full Israeli withdrawal. If Israel really wants peace and security, as its rulers claim, it should drop its demand for a ground station and agree to full withdrawal and equitable security. Only this can lead to serious military talks to work out even [muta'adilah] arrangements that ensure security for all and that do not undermine sovereignty. Responding to Israel's demand to hold military talks before agreeing to any of the basic principles will only lead to new labyrinths that will not only produce nothing positive, but also further complicate the situation and block the peace opportunities.

Syria has emphasized on all occasions its sincere desire for a real and honorable peace that restores right to its owners and provides security and stability for all. The only condition it set was the termination of the Israeli occupation and restoration of the entire Golan. It is unthinkable for Syria to accept Israeli military presence on its land under flimsy security pretexts whatever the name of this presence might be because this presence undermines Syria's sovereignty on its land and poses a threat to its security. Israel's rulers should have adhered to the facts of a just solution and its principles. Peace can never be realized under occupation and aggression. The ground station Israel demands is a blatant embodiment of occupation and aggression, and it is impossible for the peace process to make the aspired progress before Israel drops this impossible demand and before it openly commits itself to the Security Council resolutions and the principles of the Madrid conference.

Syria is for a just and comprehensive peace, and equitable security. It is serious and sincere in its quest, and this position not only enjoys the support of the countries in the region, but is also appreciated by the whole world. Syria will never accept the occupation authorities' demands and conditions that conflict with its sovereignty, security, and dignity. The Golan has

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always been Syrian land and there will be no bargaining or relinquishment of an iota of its land.

Paper Notes Israeli 'Tendency for Aggression'

JN0608153795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 6 Aug (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has ridiculed the recurring Israeli theatricals calling for a referendum on peace with Syria or even with the Palestinian party, which is shackled by the Oslo agreement, considering such calls as cogent proof of the deep-rooted enmity between Israel and peace.

In it editorial today, the paper says the Israeli rulers presented and continue to present, in both word and deed, a blunt and rude picture of aggressiveness and piracy in contravention of the will and laws of the international community. We can safely say that Israel is the only party that finds itself without any restrictions or obligations toward peace and its requirements.

The paper adds: Flexing muscles, massing troops, exacerbating the situation, beating the drums of war in southern Lebanon, and daily attacking the Lebanese villages indicate the Israeli rulers' political failure to offer anything to peace. These practices also underscore a tendency for aggression and for pushing the situation in the region toward explosion.

AL-THAWRAH asks: Where are the international resolutions, and what is their influence? Why are they ignored in all the Israeli officials' statements? Why are they being violated in broad daylight before the entire world, particularly the U.S. sponsor?

Concluding, the paper says: Syria will not be intimidated, pressured, or blackmailed. Its peace is the peace of the brave that is consistent with the international legitimacy resolutions. It seeks peace that restores the entire Golan and southern Lebanon.

Commentary Stresses Adherence to Peace Position

JN0508160495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nearly four years after the Madrid conference, the Tel Aviv rulers are still unable to distort Syria's peace intentions in order to place more obstacles in the way of peace. Syria's stands have become crystal clear through numerous contacts and summit meetings with various international parties and the U.S. sponsor itself, which has become fully aware of Syria's position. The world respects this position because it is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and because Syria has accepted the U.S. initiative, which is based on the land-for-peace principle.

We will be adding nothing new if we assert that the peace sought by Syria is based on justice, comprehensiveness, and the international legitimacy resolutions, which should return the land and rights in full to their owners, solve the various aspects of the conflict, and enable peace to be established and to endure. We would like to recall that Syria's search for a just and comprehensive peace did not start with the Madrid conference several years ago. Rather, it is an old search based on a 20-year-old strategic decision and is not linked to international changes imposed by the post-Cold War situation.

Syria has cooperated honestly with all initiatives and efforts under varying circumstances to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region. Without that cooperation, the U.S. initiative would not have got off the ground because Israel, as Washington itself knows, rejected the initiative in a letter from former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to former U.S. President George Bush.

Syria's response to the U.S. initiative based on the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy confirms Syria's peace credibility and its eagerness to achieve just and comprehensive peace in harmony with the Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of Syria and the Arabs for regaining the entire land and full rights.

Every observer following up the peace process knows that Israel is the side that is procrastinating and avoiding the peace requirements by panting after incomplete, partial, and weak agreements that are unable, as events proved, to bring about security and stability because they are not equitable [mutakafi'ah] and because they have been reached at the expense of the Arabs.

Observers always refer to Israel's intransigence every time they talk about difficulties and gaps. Israel refuses to offer the true key to just and comprehensive peace by refusing to carry out a total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and insisting on secondary matters, which have no real value in terms of security and security arrangements.

Meanwhile, Syria, whose positions are respected by the entire world, did not demand in its contacts, talks, and meetings anything other than the retrieval of its occupied territories in accordance with the UN Charter, the Security Council's resolutions, and the bases of the Madrid conference, as well as evenness [ta'adul] and equitability in the security arrangements.

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Syria, which has been honest to its positions and its national and pan-Arab principles, has cooperated with the U.S. sponsor and stressed its readiness to meet its obligations toward the objective peace requirements. Syria means what it says, and its words are in harmony with its actions. The deceptive Israeli propaganda cannot harm Syria's true and serious position.

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Afghanistan

Pakistan Minister Meets Kabul Leaders, Taleban Members

Discusses Ties With Rabbani

LD0408183895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met Mr Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the presidency's Golkhana Palace.

The press office of the presidency reports to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that during the meeting talks were held on relations and broadening of cooperation in various dimensions. The broadening and expansion of such cooperation was assessed as being in the interest of the two country's people and in the interest of peace in the region.

The president said: We want to strengthen the friendly relations with all countries including our neighbors, and in particular with Pakistan. Afghanistan welcomes the broadening of such relations and cooperation.

During this meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister has assured our president about his government's readiness regarding the formation of a high commission for the broadening of economic, cultural, commercia,l and technical cooperation between the two countries which was approved by Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Agreement was also reached on a proposal by the Pakistani side regarding the convening of a tripartite session of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan in Kabul to discuss the construction of gas pipelines.

At this meeting, agreement was also reached concerning the Islamabad session of transportation and foreign ministers of four countries — Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The meeting was also attended by esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; esteemed Mas'ud Khalili, the president's envoy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; esteemed Qazi Humayun, Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul, and some other members of Pakistan's embassy in Kabul.

Details of Agreements Noted

BK0508104195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to enhance cooperation in a gas pipeline project, in transportation, and to set up joint ministerial commission. A decision on this was made at a meeting between Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Kabul yesterday. The gas pipeline will be laid between Pakistan and Turkmenistan and will pass through Afghanistan. Both countries have also agreed to cooperate in improving transport facilities among Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

Speaking to newsmen later, Afghan President Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani said the Pakistani foreign minister's visit will prove to be a positive step toward further strengthening ties. Radio Kabul reported that the meeting between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the Pakistani foreign minister described Afghanistan-Pakistan cooperation as beneficial to the people and peace in the region.

After the meeting, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said the two countries agreed to increase cooperation in all areas. He said another aim of his visit was to review the progress of peace talks in Afghanistan. The foreign minister also called on Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the acting prime minister of Afghanistan as well as other members of the cabinet. He is scheduled to visit Qandahar and Herat to meet more Afghan leaders.

Views 'Mutual Interest' Topics

LD0408190195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister, today met Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

At this meeting, also attended by some cabinet members, both sides spoke about the development of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and some other subjects of mutual interest.

Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, member of the state high council, met this morning with Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. At this meeting both sides held talks on subjects of mutual interest.

Esteemed Dr. Mohammad Yaqub Barekzai, minister of public health, also met the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan. They spoke about medical health programs in the two countries.

According to another report, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who had arrived in Kabul yesterday for a working visit and for holding talks with the high ranking authorities of Afghanistan, left Kabul this afternoon for his country. At Kabul airport he was seen off by esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs and esteemed Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, deputy foreign

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minister; the head of protocol of the Foreign Ministry, and some high ranking government officials.

Views 'Reconciliation' With Taleban

BK0608160195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Pakistani] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali met with Taleban's deputy leader, Mulla Rabbani, and members of the Taleban Council in Qandahar and discussed with them the ongoing process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The foreign minister said Pakistan will continue its support for the unity of Afghanistan and regional stability and it wants the continuation of the process of national reconciliation to establish lasting peace in the country. He asked the Taleban movement to disarm all civilians since it will prove to be the first step toward the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali apprised the Taleban Council of the financial plan to lay a gas pipeline, which will pass through their area. He expressed the hope that the Taleban will cooperate in the implementation of this project, which will provide economic benefits to Afghanistan as well.

Official Views Talks With Pakistan Minister

BK0508105095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Najibollah Lafra'i, has expressed the hope that the visit of his Pakistani counterpart, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, to Kabul would be the start of good relations between the two countries. Commenting on the outcome of Pak-Afghan talks held in the Afghan capital, he said that the visit of his Pakistani counterpart and the setting up of a joint ministerial commission would prove a positive step toward promotion of the relations and increased cooperation.

Success of Pakistan, Uzbekistan Peace Talks Viewed

LD0508125895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Uzbekistan met a number of Afghan statesmen and leaders of warring groups. The aim of these meetings were to review the latest developments in Afghanistan and begin a new round of efforts to end war in that country. [passage omitted]

Many political experts, while believing that the principle of holding political dialogue is useful in finding peaceful ways to end the existing crisis, express doubt about the success of the current efforts. These experts believe that unless grounds are paved for the participation of all political groups representing various strata of Afghan people, a long-lasting peace cannot be established in Afghanistan. That is because any planning for the political future of Afghanistan necessitates all power factions to be taken into account, bearing in mind the irrefutable principle that political sovereignty must as a rule encompass the general spirit of the community.

Therefore, considering the variable and vulnerable fabric of the Afghan community, any lack of attention to these individual social elements will always carry the danger of creating forces opposed to a central rule on the sidelines of the political sovereignty and turning it into a new focal point of dispute.

Therefore, now that the people of Afghanistan, after suffering two decades of bloody coups, foreign aggression, and a destructive internal war, have decided to introduce peace and stability to their country. Humanitarian duty and political logic necessitate all countries to endeavor towards the realization of peace in Afghanistan and to respect the independence and political sovereignty of its people.

OIC Head Comments on Upcoming 'Crisis' Meeting

LD0608174195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to news agency reports, Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], has said that many Afghan leaders will participate in the forthcoming conference on the Afghan crisis in Jeddah. The reports add that the meeting will enable the Afghan leaders to agree on a mechanism for the solution of their country's problems.

The reports say that this time the OIC's envoy's efforts have been more successful, so he has been able to secure the agreement of many Afghan leaders to attend the Jeddah meeting. According to the reports, Ahmad Ensai, OIC envoy to Afghanistan, has said that the OIC's efforts have been successful this time because of the softening of the Afghan leaders' stances and due to the improvement of the situation in Afghanistan.

The OIC has been trying to secure the agreement of all sides to participate in a meeting in Jeddah which will be attended by government officials, representatives of the opposition, and some neutral Afghans. It will not submit a specific proposal but will try to bring the Afghans together in order to find a solution themselves.

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Taleban Jets Force Landing of 2 Transport Planes

LD0408175195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban jets forced two transport planes to land at Kandahar airport.

In his interview with the BBC Taleban spokesman Mola Khairollah, said that Taleban jets forced two transport planes, one belonging to Ariana Afghan Airlines and the second to Tajikistan — both carrying a large quantity of ammunition — to land at Kandahar airport. The spokesman added: the Tajik plane was bound for Kabul and was loaded with a large quantity of Kalashnikov ammunition in Armenia to be delivered to the coalition administration.

Khairollah added: We invite international reporters to come to Kandahar to see the planes and then judge how Rabbani by embarking on such evil action, intends to continue fighting in our beloved country and cling to power.

Khairollah, in response to another question, said: We will continue our combat operations until Rabbani is removed from power, because he is the cause of fighting and misfortune in our country.

Airlines Chief Denies Forced Landing

LD0508181895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ariana Afghan Airlines aircraft are being used only to carry passengers and Afghan businessmen's goods. Contrary to the allegations of a spokesman of the Taleban, [words indistinct] is untrue. The head of Ariana Afghan Airlines told BIA that Ariana Airlines had international guarantees and operated on international flights, and had never been used, nor will they be, for military purposes. The company is insured by a very famous insurance company. He added: A BBC report claiming that Ariana Airlines aircraft were landed in Kandahar by force is untrue.

Government Attack 'Repulsed' in Northern Salang

LD0608164895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An assault by the coalition administration has been repulsed in northern Salang. A responsible source of Hezb-e Eslami in northern Afghanistan reported to us that yesterday the Supervisory Council's warmongers mounted an unsuccessful assault in northern Salang, where they faced strong resistance from the High Coordination Council [HCC] forces and were dislodged. The report adds that as a result 15 people of the coalition administration were killed and commander Sayd Asef and some of his men were injured. It is reported that the HCC forces have captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The fighting continues heavily and the HCC forces are advancing.

Anti-Government Forces Bombard Bagram Airbase

LD0608165295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] air force has bombarded the Bagram airbase. According to a news agency report, the HCC air force bombarded the Bagram airbase yesterday. The report adds that as a result the runway has been damaged and Kabul administration warplanes cannot use it for flights.

Bangladesh

'Spokesman' Urges 'Severe Air Strikes' in Bosnia

BK0608153895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has called upon NATO to launch severe air strikes against the Serb occupation forces in Bosnia with a view to drive them out from all the areas which they have illegally occupied. A Foreign Ministry spokesman briefing newsmen in Dhaka today said that Bangladesh is keeping a close watch on the situation in Bosnia. He said the situation in Bosnia is changing every day. Dwelling on the latest situation prevailing in Bihac enclave, he said the situation has considerably improved now and added that road links have been reestablished with this enclave. Emphasizing the need to expand the role of UN forces, the spokesman said that apart from peacekeeping, this force has to now take measures to enforce peace. He said Dhaka is of the view that Zepa and Srebrenica should be handed over to their legal authority. Referring to the recent decision taken by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at its meeting held in Geneva, the spokesman said that following this decision the arms embargo against Bosnia is no longer effective.

Editorial Pleads For More U.S. Investments

BK0508154195 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 21 Jul 95 p 5

[Editorial: "U.S. Investment in Bangladesh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eminent U.S. politician and senator, Edward Kennedy, has expressed satisfaction over the economic prosperity of Bangladesh and called upon

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U.S. businessmen to invest in this country. Speaking at an investment workshop held under the auspices of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Virginia recently, Senator Kennedy said U.S. businessmen should avail themselves of the current investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

We welcome the call made by Senator Kennedy encouraging U.S. businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest here. His perception regarding U.S. business collaboration in a country like Bangladesh reflects his farsightedness and statemanship. The country is already an attractive place for capital investments and the transfer of advanced technology. The U.S and Bangladesh share common experience in shouldering and inheriting the burden of British colonial rule. Independence and democracy has opened up the economic prospects in the United States. Similarly, independence and democracy has also opened up new prospects in this South Asian country. The traditional lifestyle of its people, their productivity, inclination toward business, dedication toward social welfare, hospitality, experience in trade since the past few generations, and quest for learning and efficiency, have created an excellent climate for investment. These characteristics together with the existing democracy has made Bangladesh appealing to an intelligent politician like Senator Kennedy. It has excellent social characteristics and the capability to increase productivity, but it needs economic and technological cooperation to become a significant entry in the world economy.

The United States is not simply a leading donor country, but also a close trading partner of Bangladesh. The main reason behind the dramatic increase in the number of garment industries here is the huge market in the United States. Instead of encouraging the trade, there are quite a large number of forces and organizations in the U.S. that are trying to create obstacles. These organizations want to promote protectionism in trade and immigration policies and aim to negatively influence the administration. They should realize that the main reasons behind the greatness of the U.S. are its liberalism and universalism. This great country has come into existence, developed, and has attained the topmost position due to its policy of liberalism and amalgamation of various nationalities. Hence, the effort to deprive this country of its liberalism cannot be supported. This is not a healthy outlook.

The U.S can contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh in various ways. It can contribute to increasing production in the export-oriented industries through capital investment and technology transfer. Its economic assistance can also help develop traditional and social sectors. Its most glaring example of success is in its rural electrification program. We hope that the U.S. Government and corporations will come forward to invest in the nationalized and heavy industries sectors, and also in infrastructure and welfare. It is expected that they will use the opportunities in these sectors following the initiation of reforms. Their increased investment apart from brightening the prospects of material gains, will also help in the development of Bangladesh.

Seats of 'Boycotting Lawmakers' Will Be Vacated

BK0308040495 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali Friday [28 July] indicated that the seats of the opposition MPs who crossed the 90-day constitutional limit of absence will be vacated with effect from June 20 last, reports UNB.

The boycotting lawmakers of Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, NDP [National Democratic Party], and Workers Party completed the absence for 90 consecutive sitting days on June 19.

Talking to reporters at his official residence Friday evening, the Speaker said the Gazette notification would be made to this effect in a couple of days.

Ali said he would inform the House of the matter when the Parliament will be in session.

The Speaker's statement came a day after the Supreme Court declared that the Opposition's walkout from and boycott of Parliament should be construed as absence.

Ali quoted Article 123 (4) of the Constitution which says an election to fill the seat of a member of Parliament which falls vacant otherwise than by reason of dissolution of Parliament shall be held within 90 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

About the procedure of declaring the seats vacant, he referred to Rule 178 (4) that says the Secretary shall cause a notification to that effect to be published in the Gazette and forward a copy of the notification to the member concerned and also to the Election Commission for taking steps to fill the vacancy thus caused.

"My Secretariat will not take time in preparing the report on absentee MPs. We have all records and the Gazette notification will be made in a couple of days", the Speaker said.

Earlier in the day, the Speaker told UNB that everything will go by the Constitution and "I will go by the Constitution and Rules of Procedure".

When his attention was drawn to the Supreme Court's opinion about the absentee MPs, Ali said although it is

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a non-binding opinion, "all concerned should follow it, must follow it".

In reply to a question, Ali said there is no necessity of summoning an emergency session of Parliament to inform the matter of vacation of seats of the opposition MPs.

"It is upto the President whether he will summon the Parliament or not but I don't think there is any necessity of an emergency session".

Another 55 Seats Declared Vacant

BK0608155895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Aug 6 (AFP) — Fifty-five Bangladeshi opposition lawmakers who were part of a 16-month parliamentary boycott have had their seats officially declared vacant, bringing the total to 142, official sources said Sunday [6 August].

The vacancies were declared by House Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali who last month declared 87 other opposition seats vacant after the lawmakers had stayed away from parliament for over 90 days without leave.

Officials had sent letters to the 55 opposition MPs, who had signed the house's attendance record, in an effort to verify their status, the sources said.

Opposition MPs walked out of the 330-member house in December last year in an attempt to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and secure fresh elections under a neutral caretaker administration, alleging free polls were impossible under her government.

Zia has rejected the allegations and reiterated Saturday calls for talks to end the standoff.

The parliament was elected in 1991 and elections are scheduled for early 1996.

India

Muslim Group Issues Photos, Statement on Hostages

BK0508122495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 5 (AFP) — A Muslim guerrilla group said Saturday [5 August] that three of the five Western hostages it was holding were seriously ill and warned they faced possible death.

The Al-Faran rebel group said in a statement issued here that it had scaled down the number of colleagues it wants freed from Indian prisons from 21 to 15.

The Urdu-language statement came with two colour photographs showing American Donald Hutchings covered with bandages and blood stains, and Keith Mangan of Britain being administred glucose intravenously.

The statement said the two were injured in a gunbattle when Indian troops stormed an Al-Faran hideout last month in an attempt to rescue the five Western tourists who were abducted one month ago.

Indian authorities have denied the fighting took place.

The statement said the condition of Hutchings and Mangan had worsened. German Dirk Hasert was also ill, it added.

"They are not eating anything for the last three days and their condition is deteriorating," it said.

"If proper medical treatment is not provided to them, they may die, and the (Indian) government will be responsible for the (deaths)," it added.

Al-Faran abducted Hutchings, Mangan and Paul Wells, also from Britain, from Kashmir's mountainous district of Pahalgam on July 2. Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were seized separately four days later.

The group, said to comprise mainly of Afghan mercenaries, has been demanding the release of 21 jailed colleagues in exchange for the five. New Delhi has rejected the demand.

Al-Faran said it now wanted only 15 of the guerrillas released.

"If the demand is not met, the hostages will not be released at any cost," it said.

There was no immediate comment from Indian authorities on the Al- Faran statement. Other Muslim militant groups in Kashmir have denounced the abduction and demanded the immediate release of the hostages.

More than 12,000 people have died in a bloody Muslim separarist drive in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Releases Taped Message of U.S. Hostage

BK0508142095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 5 Aug 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Aug 5 (AFP) — Three of the five western hostages being held by a Muslim guerrilla group in Kashmir were seriously ill and could die, the group said Saturday [5 August], delivering photos and a tape recording of the hostages to back its claim.

The Al-Faran rebel group also said in a statement issued here that it had reduced the number of colleagues it

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wants freed from Indian prisons in exchange for the hostages from 21 to 15.

The statement was delivered to news agencies with two colour photographs showing American Donald Hutchings covered with bandages and blood stains and Keith Mangan of Britain being given glucose intravenously.

It said the two were injured in a gun battle when Indian troops stormed an Al-Faran hideout last month in a bid to rescue the five Western tourists seized one month ago.

Hutchings, a psychiatrist, said in a taped message which came with the statement that the hostages were danger and had been attacked by the Indian Army.

"I was shot," he said in feeble voice, coughing constantly. "I do not have strength to speak much. I am confused. I am critical ... got many wounds in the broken leg. We are living in danger."

Indian authorities have denied troops had clashed with Al-Faran. There was no comment from Indian authorities on the Al-Faran statement. [passage omitted]

Special Army Units Intensify Search for Hostages

BK0608083295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jammu, India, Aug 6 (AFP) — An Indian soldier and three Muslim rebels died in an overnight ambush of an Army camp, as crack troops intensified a hunt for five Westerners abducted last month by Kashmiri guerrillas here, officials said Sunday [6 August].

Giving details of Saturday's attack, senior officials said two soldiers and three Muslim rebels were also injured in the ambush in Gundana, 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the southern Kashmir town of Doda.

A spokesman for the northern Indian state said in Kashmir's winter capital of Jammu that Harkat-ul-Ansar, a hardline Muslim militant group, campaigning against an annual Hindu pilgrimage here, may have staged the daring attack.

The midnight ambush was the second since July 22 when Harkat rebels killed seven soldiers at another camp near Doda. [passage omitted]

Authorities, meanwhile, said special Army patrols aided by local guides were scouring Pahalgam for the five tourists and their abductors, identified as Muslim militants belonging to the previously-unknown Al-Faran group.

The Al-Faran siezed American Donald Hutchings, Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells near Pahalgam on July 2. German national Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were abducted separately four days later. [passage omitted]

Officials, Press View Enron Deal Cancellation

Law Minister Comments on Report

BK0408151295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center has asked the Law Ministry to examine in detail the extent of its liability under the counterguarantee. This follows the Maharashtra government's decision to scrap the 9,000 crore rupee Enron-Dabhol power project. The power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, told the Rajya Sabha today that his ministry had also asked the Maharashtra government to make available the full report of the Enron Project Review Committee. He said it appears that the recommendations of the review committee formed the basis for scrapping the 2,015-megawatts gas-based power project. He said the matter was being examined in detail.

Minister Calls Cancellation 'Serious'

BK0408161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The industry minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has said that the cancellation of the Enron agreement is a serious matter. Talking to newspersons in Kochi today, he said the decision comes at a time when foreign countries are looking forward to increase their investment in India.

The former Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said that the Congress-I in the state will take up a public awareness campaign on the Enron issue. Speaking after a meeting of the Congress-I legislature party in Bombay today, he said they have decided to request the center not to shift the Enron project to any other state. Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Janata Party and the Communist Party of India is separate statements issued in New Delhi today welcomed the decision to scrap the Enron project. But the Janata Party described the decision as antidevelopmental.

Daily Urges 'Re-Working' of Deal

BK0508115595 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Enron's Not On"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In deciding to virtually scrap the deal with Enron to build the Rs 9,000 crore

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Dabhol power project, the Maharashtra Government has fulfilled a poll pledge. Chief Minister Manohar Joshi's announcement in the State Assembly on Thursday [3 August], of course, made clear that only the second phase of the project had been cancelled. But it was an endorsement of the Enron Review Committee's findings that the capital cost of the Dabhol project had been inflated by as much as 25 per cent, the terms of the power purchase agreement (PPA) were inequitable and secretive, and that it would be far less damaging to incur the one-time loss by way of penalty payable for cancelling the project than going along with its implementation. The Committee has found the whole process of negotiations of this deal flawed on a number of counts. Not only were the standard procedures such as competitive bidding given a go by and the terms of the deal kept away from public scrutiny, but even environmental considerations were ignored. The report is quite firm in holding Enron to account for having withheld certain facts, misrepresented some others and even colluded with government officials in ways that would bring into question the validity of the agreement. In fact, the report is categorical that the deal would be vulnerable if submitted to judicial scrutiny and so "no question of any damages under the contract shall arise."

It may be for such certainties that the Munde Committee has not even once suggested renegotiations as an option. But it does not necessarily mean that the Maharashtra Government should slam that door shut permanently. The BJP-Shiv Sena government may rightly take credit for bringing to light a hush-hush deal that should have been open to public view from the outset. The Enron company too could not have been unaware of the flawed nature of the Dabhol deal; that's why, in sharp contrast to some warning notes sounded from Washington earlier, Enron had itself recently proposed renegotiation. It is time for the BJP-Shiv Sena government to display initiative and imagination and use the Munde panel report as a bargaining counter for re-working the whole deal in ways and on terms that are best suited to the State's best interests. This is necessary to send the right message to potential investors; the Enron deal is not an archetypal case of how governments would view foreign investment contracts. India has done enough to assure international investors that a change of government would not lead to abrogation of contracts. On the other hand, the Maharashtra decision could lead to the working out of a model contract that should set the broad terms for governing the construction of fast-track power projects with foreign investment. Already, there are over half a dozen such projects in various stages of negotiation which have been awaiting the outcome of the Enron deal. By helping evolve a broad framework for negotiating such projects now, the Maharashtra Government could be serving India's interests which are far larger than the State's own.

Radio Questions: Why Oppose Enron?

BK0408041095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Commentary by Bharat Kumar Raut]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in Maharashtra has scrapped the multi-crore dollar deal with the American Enron company. The announcement made on the floor of both houses of the state legislature by the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, yesterday was not quite unexpected. However, it did cause raising of many eyebrows. It is mainly because the scrapping of the Dabhol Power Project agreement with Enron has created many legal complications.

The controversial agreement with the multinational company was made two years ago when Mr. [Congress-I leader] Mr. Sharad Pawar was the chief minister. This deal remained in the eye of controversy ever since the memorandum of understanding to erect 2,015-megawatt power project was signed in June 1992. Many of those who had felt the need to involve foreign companies in creating infrastructure in the state believed that Enron was not the best deal. Apart from the fact that the state government deviated from the accepted norms of inviting tenders and quotations for such a gigantic project, many people feel that the environmental aspect was also ignored. Another serious objection raised was that the Maharashtra Electricity Board was obliged to purchase power from Enron as the government had given a counter-guarantee to it by an agreement in September last year. This means the consumer had to buy the Enron power with much higher rate, that too without complaint. The terms of the agreement were kept secret. Lack of transparency in the deal created an atmosphere of suspicion. The BJP had made it an important plank during the last [state] assembly elections. Both BJP and Shiv Sena had assured to scrap the project in their election manifestos.

There is a legal angle to it. The state government has agreed to a compensation clause in its agreement. This means Enron is free to seek legal redressal and compensation. Government is considered to be a continuous process. A change in the ruling party should not necessarily mean reversing agreements and contracts of the previous government. Such an attitude shall leave adverse impact on the private companies entering into agreement with the government. Industrially developed Maharashtra's installed power generating capacity is 11,500 megawatt. The peak demand of the state will

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go up to over 13,000 megawatt at the beginning of the next century. Therefore, mega power projects are the only solution. The question is from where the state will get electricity to meet the growing demand. In this case, foreign company entry is inevitable. Then, why oppose Enron?

U.S. Firm Said Target of Hindu Group Protest

BK0408142795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BOMBAY, Aug 4 (AFP) — A Hindu nationalist organisation said Friday [4 August] it would launch protests against all "fast-track" power projects in India following the scrapping of a 2.8-billion-dollar project by the Maharashtra state government.

Leaders of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM, Forum for Awakening Self-Reliance) said they would launch a nationwide protest movement against the seven remaining "fast-track" power projects in the country.

"We will start an agitation against them," said an SJM official, Ravindra Mahajan. "The programme will be announced at our convention in (Maharashtra) on September 24."

Mahajan indicated that a coal-fired power project being built in the south Indian state of Karnataka by the US firm Cogentrix would be the next target following the scrapping of the 2,015-megawatt Enron Corp. power project here.

The SJM and leftist and centrist parties had participated in the campaign against the Houston-based Enron.

The power station in Karnataka being built by Cogentrix would generate 1, 000 megawatts of electricity using Australian coal.

Mahajan said the state-owned National Thermal Power Corp., was to have set up the power station with a capacity of 2,430 megawatts, using indigenous coal sources.

"Now, even though the capacity has been more than halved and the project has gone to Cogentrix, the cost remains the same," he said.

"Besides, the project is coming up in the ecologically fragile Western Ghats mountain range. No fresh environmental impact assessments have been done even though Australian coal will be used in place of local coal," he added.

Mahajan said multinational companies setting up new power projects in the country had hiked their project costs soon after the Enron contract was signed.

"They all took their cue from Enron, we have detailed reports of each project," he said.

'Militants' Attack Army Post in Kashmir Village

BK0508164395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one Army jawan [soldier] was killed and another injured in village (Banda) in Doda District today. The incident took place in the early hours today when a group of militants attacked an Army post in the village. The Army jawans returned the fire, which continued for over two hours, resulting in the death of one jawan.

Security Forces Kill Three 'Militants' in Kashmir

BK0608162195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all arrangements have been completed for the departure of the holy mace or chadi mubarak of Lord Shiva from Srinagar to Chandanwari tomorrow. The holy mace will lead the mens pilgrims caravan from Chandanwâri on Tuesday [8 August] its three-day trek to the Amarnath Cave. AIR Srinagar correspondent reports that about 10,000 pilgrims have already visited the holy Amarnath Cave so far and they are now on their way back. A nine month old child and a 60-year old man died of extreme cold at (Sheshnag) yesterday. All other pilgrims are safe and sound.

Meanwhile, three militants were among eight persons killed while the security forces apprehended 14 militants including a self-styled adviser of an outfit. According to official sources, a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered during the search operations. The spokesman said that militants fired a rocket toward the office complex of deputy commissioner, Pulwama, which exploded without causing any damage. An explosive device weighing about three kilograms was found near (Mahandikadal), Anantnag, which was defused by experts.

Iran

President Views U.S. Attempts To Isolate Nation

LD0608211595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday [6 August] evening awarded a badge of third degree merit to Mr. Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian-Fard, our country's ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Addressing the diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, the president stressed the need for presentation of the true picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Referring to the recent provocations of the U.S. Government in its attempt to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president pointed out: Simultaneously with the rising propaganda of the U.S. government and its allies to boycott the Islamic Republic of Iran, other world countries and international economic and technical firms have shown greater enthusiasm for expansion of cooperation and participation in Iran's economic and industrial projects. This issue is worthy of analysis and its dimensions should be studied. The issue cannot be viewed merely as a simple coincidence.

The president praised the firm foundation of our country's economy and its development as the fruit of the logical plans implemented by the government during the reconstruction period. He said: This is one of the great achievements of Islamic Iran and a source of pride. [passage omitted]

Stressing the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's defense capability at this sensitive period, the president said: At present Iran, by domestically supplying 90 percent of its requirements for defense, has strengthened its defense sector in a manner it deserves.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized in addressing the diplomats: You, as representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the world nations and governments, can play a significant role in presenting a true picture of the Islamic revolution at the international level; and you should work harder to perform your role.

France Said Resisting U.S. Pressure on Oil Deal

LD0708102295 Tehran IRNA in English
0831 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — A senior Iranian diplomat said France will honor its commitment it made for the offshore oil exploration in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's Ambassador to France Hamid Reza Asefi in an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed on Monday [7 August], said, "I have no doubt that the French oil company, Total, will honor its commitment to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)."

He added that France follows an independent policy and will definitely resist the U.S. pressure.

So far France has publicly said 'no' to the United States when Washington requested that Paris join its anti-Iran campaign, Asefi said.

"Neither France nor the European Union imposed a trade or economic ban on Iran. So there is no anti-Iran sentiment in European countries," the senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official said.

"And don't forget, the NIOC-Total accord provides for mutually beneficial interests," Asefi added.

"The U.S. trade embargo has no credibility when you consider the fact that just a few months ago the United States was one of the major trade partners of the Islamic republic. At that time Washington was exerting pressure on its European allies to keep away from Iran," he pointed out.

"The Clinton administration is facing opposition from various U.S. politicians and commercial companies," he said.

He was referring to the June announcement by President Bill Clinton banning trade with Iran.

"Those who know even the basics of economics understand that the economic embargo on a country such as Iran which enjoys enormous resources can never work," Asefi commented.

Asefi hailed Jacques Chirac's entry into the Elysee Palace last March and said, "we have cordial relations with the rightists of France."

"I believe that the Gaullists and President Chirac are following a balanced policy which is in our interest," the ambassador stressed.

"I'm very optimistic that in light of France's role in this region, Tehran-Paris ties will improve even further in the years to come," Asefi noted.

On bilateral trade, Asefi said, "the exchange of commodities between Iran and France amounted to dlrs. 2 billion, and France had emerged as the second major trade partner of the Islamic republic last year."

"Iran is the fourth crude oil supplier to France and cooperates with Paris in the fields of petrochemicals, communications and energy," Asefi said.

"We are negotiating with France for the construction of a railway network in Iran," the ambassador concluded.

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U.S. Official's 'Baseless Claims' Criticized

LD0408172395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The assistant to the U.S. state secretary for Mideast affairs and South Asia claimed that from the very beginning of the imposition of the U.S.-led trade embargo against Iran, none of the industrial member states of the Group of Seven have been ready to grant more credits to Iran. Robert Pollister [name as heard], who was speaking at the session of the international relations committee of the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, 2 August, claimed that Iran is facing difficulties in finding a market for its oil, whose purchase by the U.S. companies have been halted.

Such baseless claims would stem from some U.S. officials' spite and hostility, who have faced difficulty in inducing their ideas in their addressees, are not anything new for anyone. The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the trade embargo exercised on the part of Washington, not only is not facing any difficulty but, for instance, through replacing the U.S. company Conoco by the French company Total for the implementation of the project for the expansion of the oil fields in Siri, served to prove America's inability and weakness in exercising a trade embargo against Iran.

It appears that the U.S. officials have come to notice this point that freedom of trade is a universally accepted principle and the world's industrial states will never overlook and sacrifice the interests accruing from trade with the Islamic Republic for the illegitimate demands of America. Under the circumstances when oil had the first say among the other energy resources needed in the industrial states, it is mere simplemindedness to think that Iran will run into difficulty with its oil exports.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state, elsewhere in his comments, spoke about the industrial states' refusal to provide Iran with more credits while it is quite obvious that this is also not anything more than a baseless claim. That is because, for instance, the Japanese Foreign Ministry officials have announced that they would pay the second installment for the loan on the Karun dam.

In response to a question posed by a parliament deputy, concerning the claim about Iran's support of the Mideast terrorist groups, Robert Pollister, without offering any evidence or document, once again accused Iran of supporting terrorism and that the occasional blind terroristic attacks of the U.S. and Western backed groups are still continuing in Iran. America, by exercising a trade embargo against Iran, is dreaming the overthrow of the Islamic Republic system to prepare the ground for renewed pillage of Iran's national wealth. But the firm economic and popular support as well as the Islamic Iran's massive influence among the people in the remotest parts of the world have resulted in that dream continuing to remain an illusory dream.

Majles Speaker on Foreign Ministry, World Ties

LD0608145995 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Majles speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here on Sunday [6 August] hailed the performance of the Foreign Ministry as successful.

In a meeting with Iranian diplomats based in foreign countries, he said the Foreign Ministry has been successful in expansion of diplomatic, cultural and economic relations with the outside world.

Elaborating on the priorities of the Iranian diplomacy, the Majles speaker said Iran focused its diplomacy on honoring the principles and values of the Islamic revolution on the one hand and consideration of the realities in the world on the other.

Nateq-Nuri said the Foreign Ministry has undertaken the duty of forging diplomatic relations between Iran and other countries, explaining the Islamic ideology to the others and helping remove possible difficulties in Iran's trade relations.

Pointing to the qualitative and quantitative developments within the Foreign Ministry, he said the ministry has undergone considerable progress after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, the number of diplomatic missions has increased so that Iran's diplomatic relations have undergone a considerable growth, he said.

The Majles speaker made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and peaceful use of nuclear technology. He said the inspections made by international bodies have confirmed that Iran's nuclear efforts are peaceful.

On Iran's relations with Europe and the United States, he said the U.S. account should be separated from that of Europe so that Iran would have good relations with Europe.

Croatian Envoy Comments on Military Action, Talks

LD0508123895 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — Croatian ambassador to Iran, Osman Muftic has stressed

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his country's readiness to launch military operations against the aggressor Serbs.

Speaking to the Persian-language daily 'IRAN', published Saturday [5 August], he underlined that fruitless negotiations would not continue any more.

Croatia is trying to find a solution through negotiations, Muftic said adding, but if discussions do not bear fruit, the country will wage war against the Serbian forces.

He stated that his country does not accept that its occupied territories further remain under the occupation of Serbs.

Criticizing the operations carried out by the U.N. peacekeeping forces stationed in Croatia and Bosnia, the ambassador reiterated that the U.N. forces do not take their task seriously and are waiting for future developments.

"The Serb forces are planning to establish a greater Serbia," he said adding, "We will not accept any condition leading to formation of a great Serbia."

Expressing regret over incidents happening in Bosnian-Herzegovina, he underlined that his country is willing to defend the Bosnian nation.

Condemning the Serbs' savage aggression upon Bosnia, the ambassador said his government considers itself committed to Bosnian Croats and the committment is diplomatic.

Welcoming the decision made by the Islamic contact group to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia, he noted that according to military agreement, Bosnia and Croatia are determined to defend each other against the Serbs' savage attacks.

Commentary Addresses OIC, 'Bosnian Tragedy'

NC0708151895 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani: "Bosnia: The Curtains Are Rising"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Following the decision by its Contact Group, the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] has taken noteworthy steps regarding the Bosnian tragedy. The lifting of the Bosnian arms embargo by the OIC is of great political significance; and this has sparked off a strong negative reaction by the United States, Britain, and a number of other Western countries. This has actually shown yet another reason for being active on the political scene (although this may be more dangerous). But these achievements definitely should be regarded as one of the spectacular outcomes of our country's diplomacy.

2. Why is the West concerned over the OIC's efforts? I think that there are two major reasons. The first has to do with the essence of the issue—that is, the Muslims in Bosnia. And the second has to do with the position of the United Nations and its legitimacy from the point of view of the United States and the West.

As far as the first reason is concerned, we should admit that the emergence of an Islamic political identity on European soil is definitely not to the West's liking. They are ready to accept millions of Muslims as immigrants and refugees, but they are not ready to see one political entity with an Islamic identity existing on European soil! One of the most important achievements of [David] Owen during the last round of the so-called Bosnian peace talks was to give the go-ahead for the genocide against Muslims (at the necessarily gradual pace)! Apparently no one disagrees with the matter in principle. It may be argued that the stands and efforts of some Western countries show that they are not satisfied with what the Serbs are doing! But my response to this is that this dissatisfaction does exist, but only with the "gradual method" and not with the crux of the matter.

3. But there is another reason for the West's stand following the OIC decision that is more important and more profound; and that is the spreading doubt about the validity of the United Nations.

We should ask why the United Nations is important for the West and what the West expects of it in the future? One thing on which the United States and Europe agree is that the world should be ruled by the Club of the West, and that the United Nations' structure and powers should be changed so it can become the seat of government in this new order. Of course, the United States and Europe may disagree over what type of system should reign inside this club, but the interests of all the members of this club are consistent. Undoubtedly the OIC's actions have, first of all, questioned the legitimacy of the United Nations under its current Charter and cast doubts on the West's dreams of its future. Secondly, it has created grounds for a collective attempt by the Islamic countries—and one that concerns a military issue, above all one inside Europe! For the politicians in Washington, London, and Paris there can be no worse nightmare than seeing soldiers of the world of Islam under different flags all united under the banner of "There Is But One God and Allah Is His Name" to defend the Muslims' rights on European soil.

4. What is the truth behind all this? Who sparked off the war? Definitely those who look at the world through racist and discriminatory eyeglasses—be they in Belgrade or anywhere else— should be held liable for these atrocities. The OIC should continue along the

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path it has taken with a profound view. Otherwise, it will be quickly plunged into inaction. And this view should at least take the following points into consideration:

First of all, the nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its territorial integrity and independence should be ensured.

Secondly, all traces of anti-Muslim racism should be wiped out and in Bosnia-Herzegovina the Muslims and the Christians—all its citizens—should be able to coexist with equal rights.

Thirdly, the Bosnian incidents should be recognized as aggression against an independent country, and its perpetrators should suffer all the legal consequences of this aggression.

The Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry, which is among the major mentors of the current movement, should try to create the necessary political-legal conditions for the current significant efforts to bear fruit.

Velayati Comments on Muslim World Help for Bosnia

LD0608174695 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Chairman of the Cultural Commission of the Italian Parliament, Vittorio Scarbie, here today that with the help of the Muslim world the West can solve the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina in an equitable manner.

He said the Muslim world is ready to end the human catastrophe in the Balkans.

In the meeting the Italian official voiced the willingness of his country to promote cultural cooperation with Iran.

President Opens Caspian News Agencies' Meeting

LD0608104295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a meeting of officials and representatives of news agencies from the five Caspian Sea littoral states. Referring to the importance of the region as a history-making axis and a crucial economic center, he pointed out: The position of the Caspian Sea, which, like the Persian Gulf, plays an effective role in regional and international cooperation, must receive more attention by its littoral states.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for the region's states to make use of their deep-rooted historical and cultural background and said he considers that to be an effective move toward friendly and fraternal relations between the nations and the creation of a powerful regional alliance. [passage omitted]

Expressing his thanks for choosing Iran as the venue for the first meeting of the Association of Caspian Sea News Agencies, President Rafsanjani declared Iran's support for such cooperation.

Mr Vardinejad, managing director of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, briefed the session on the agenda of the first meeting of the Association of Caspian Sea News Agencies and said: The association has been set up according to the agreements signed by Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan and its representatives will meet each year in one of the member states.

Velayati on Caspian News Agency Body

LD0608183095 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told directors of news agencies of the five Caspian sea states here today that the Caspian is unique for its resources and its environment, and because of that the region may become a very important part of the world historically and and politically.

He said exchange of information such as about the status of shipping, ecology, and live resources between the littoral states of the Caspian Sea is extremely important. He said mutual exchange of information can help promtoe cooperation between them.

The foreign minister of Iran said the move to establish the Association of Caspian Sea News Agencies (ACSNA) would be a good corner stone for mutual communication between those states.

He said exhange of information is an important element for cooperation between Caspian states and Iran would welcome every suggestion for improving regional cooperation.

Before Velayati's speech, managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Fereydoun Verdinejad said relations between Iran and its northern neghbors especially those in central Asia and the Caucasia were fast developing.

He said relations between news agencies and other sections of the regional media would be a good backing for political, economic and cultural relations.

The IRNA chief said ACSNA would help promote exchange of news in the area of economy and business between member states of the Caspian Sea.

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The first meeting of ACSNA is to be held in Iran's Caspian Sea resort of Chalous August 7-8. The five countries bordering the oblong Caspian — the world's largest inland sea — are Iran, Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Second Prayers Sermon Views UN, Bosnia, Corruption

LD0408133095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate [passage omitted]

Among the issues of the day which I need to briefly mention is that I should thank you all profoundly for your extensive participation in the 2 August rallies [in support of the Bosnian Muslims].

The rallies were very good, much to the enemy's dismay. What I saw in Tehran with my own eyes was a very vast demonstration. A cautious estimate is that something in the region of 600,000 to 700,000 people took part. The more daring observers, however, estimate the numbers to be more than one million. The foreign media, on the other hand, put the number at just over 10,000. This is how they are; they do not want the people of the world to know what is happening in Iran. However, these moves will eventually produce the desired effects.

I thank all you dear ones, whether in Tehran or in other cities, where according to reports received, some magnificent rallies were staged. I am grateful to the whole nation.

I also thank the Voice and Vision [radio and TV] for their good coverage of the event. I also thank everyone who made donations to the cause, including the eminent leader, the eminent president, the esteemed Majles speaker, and all the servants of the system who donated a few days of their salaries to the cause.

These rallies carried a message to the outside world. The message is that our people are Muslim human beings who listen to the call of their conscience and their Islamic upbringing and, therefore, cannot stand idle and watch Muslims in some corner of the world suffer such a horrifying oppression. Our people instead raise their voice of protest wholeheartedly and express their hatred of the enemy and their support for the oppressed. [crowd chants]

These rallies' message for the enemy is that Muslims are not alone. They tell friends that we are beside you and support you, that you should be optimistic and continue the war, that you should not despair, that you should resist. Their message to international forums is that we do not pin hopes on you. As I also mentioned during those rallies, our rallies were in fact a burial ceremony for the United Nations. We should say, in fact, that the [UN] organization has completely lost its former credibility and there is no hope for its revival in the future. The reason for that is the influence of domineering powers, particularly the United States. They do not allow it to act even if wants to take action in support of an oppressed or tyrannized party. You see the examples of that in their vetoing of [the UN resolutions].

The rallies had also a number of messages for inside the country, for our people, for those who argue about the revolution, relations with the United States, and other political issues. The rallies let such persons know that the revolution is alive; the Islamic Republic was founded on the basis of His Eminence Imam [Khomeyni]; we are loyal to our imam and our revolution; we accept and abide by our Imam's will and we have not forgotten the instructions of the Imam. Therefore, the revolution is as strong as ever. Even if some people show their disloyalty, we should realize there are always people who leave a movement before it reaches its destination. But those who count are the masses and the masses showed their loyalty to the revolution, the Imam and the true path of Islam. [crowd chants: "God is the greatest," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Another message tells such people that we will never reconcile with the United States. We cannot stretch the hand of friendship to a power that has plundered this country for many years, has interfered in its every affair, has prevented the people from their spiritual, cultural, and even economic and financial growth; has brought on the society poverty, destitution, economic disruption, moral disruption; has done its best to be hostile to us, without it [the United States] apologizing, repenting, giving some sort of guarantee about not pursuing its past policies in the future. What sort of idea is it that some people have?

These people, and these demonstrations, and these slogans tell them: Do not distance yourselves from the people. [crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader"] I, too, advise them not to distance themselves from the people. If you do, you will lose out. The people will not lose out. The system is one which is based on Islam and the people's vote. In my previous sermon I said that it is the leader and the people who make policy. Therefore, it is the people who should accept you as servants, or any other title, so that you can do your job. If the people do not accept you, who will support you? Who will sign your credentials?

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Although I am unwilling to raise certain matters, sometimes I am forced to say certain things. Since it was published in the newspapers and everybody found out, I am referring to it, and will move on after a quick reference. That is, the issue of sending the adult wrestling team to the United States. For some time it has been reported in the newspapers. They, therefore, should have realized that they should not do that. When the youngsters' wrestling matches were held here they [Americans] sent a message saying we will not send our children; that their parents are worried and upset, that they would not be safe there. It is as if it is a jungle here and anybody who comes here is torn to pieces straight away.

That is how they treat us. So should we send our young, or adult wrestlers there when the competitions are held there? Of course, the wrestlers are not at fault. If they [officials] tell them to go, they will, and if they say do not go, they will not. Those policy makers, some of whom have spent a few days in the United States and are forever dreaming about it, should come to their senses. What are you doing? At first I thought that the Foreign Ministry had been involved and had agreed to it. Then I asked and they said no the Foreign Ministry had not been consulted. Do not do this sort of thing.

I will not go on about it any more. I hope that they will repent and not do it again. Such deeds are forbidden, and I am telling you not to commit forbidden deeds. [passage omitted]

My last issue is to express gratitude to all those who are engaged in the fight against social vices and economic corruption.

I really must thank the judiciary, the Intelligence Ministry, and the Law Enforcement Force for running the stage. This is what I said right from the outset; that is, that the tasks should be delegated to the experts in the field. The important tasks should not be delegated to those who need to be told to do something, but to those who will do it anyway. This is the whole essence of what can be termed as the Hezbollah forces; the forces who want to do things and should not be impeded.

If they want to prohibit vices, they should not be prevented. If they want to propagate virtues or fight social and economic corruption, they should not be stopped. Just the fact that you do not stop them means that the work will be done.

The fact that some sections in the Intelligence Ministry and other organs acted with such a coordination and harmony has given rise to hope and a certain assurance that things are moving forward.

Of course there are differing opinions, in particular, in connection with the open court sessions. Those opposing it say that the honor of individuals may be endangered and certain misunderstandings and misinterpretations may result. However, I believe that such sessions should remain in force, because their positive results outweigh their negative ones.

Of course, if someone is acquitted in these trials, his name and honor should definitely be restored, since as you are aware such courts may acquit as well as convict defendants. Nonetheless, these trials should deter the corrupt elements. They should realize that their sins will find them out. They should know that if they are caught, it will not be easy for them to escape justice and emerge unscathed.

They should be made aware that things are different to what they believe. They should know that such outcomes can await them and corruption can indeed lead to such consequences.

For these reasons, I believe the move is good and it should be continued, so that the serious fight may continue against smuggling, high prices and profiteering, embezzlement, and similar social and economic maladies. [passage omitted]

IRGC Said Turning Into 'Rapid Deployment Force'

LD0508152795 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ardebil, Aug. 5, IRNA — Commader-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohsen Reza'i announced here Saturday [5 August] that the IRGC personnel are turning into rapid deployment forces.

Reza'i said the grand military exercises conducted by Ashura battalions nationwide was the first step towards turning the IRGC into a rapid deployment force.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is very strong at present in terms of politics and defence," Reza'i pointed out.

He termed as "good and friendly" the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with neighboring countries and underlined the need for Iran to establish cultural and economic relations with Caucasian states especially the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Moreover, Reza'i said that Washington's recent failure to convince European countries to join its economic sanctions on Iran was an international disgrace for the U.S.

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In-flight Refuelling Said Developed for MiG-29

LD0608170495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in the world, refuelling of MiG-29 planes in flight has been performed in Iran. Basically the MiG-29 planes are not equipped to refuel in flight. Thanks, however, to the efforts of experts in the self-sufficiency jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, a refuelling system for the MiG-29 has been designed, manufactured, and fitted.

Following implementation of this important technical project, the operational capability and flying potential of MiG-29 planes will increase. That is, the plane can fly longer and further in carrying out patrol and reconnaissance operations.

The self-sufficiency jihad of the air force has announced its readiness to pass its technical knowhow on this innovative project to other countries.

'Radical' Students Protest Ban on Newspaper

NC0508094895 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 5 (AFP) — Islamic radical students in Iranian universities have protested the closure of a popular left-wing newspaper, calling the government's action "illegal," a students' group said Saturday [5 August].

The authorities banned the PEYAM-E-DANESHJU (Student's Message) weekly earlier this week on the grounds that it published "sensational" articles "incompatible" with Iran's press law.

The paper was very popular for its open and stinging criticism of the country's principal leaders, including President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"To perpetuate its survival, the ruling faction suppresses any act of criticism and constructive suggestion by loyal and revolutionary forces," the Union of Islamic Student Associations said in a fax received by AFP.

"The illegal ban against PEYAM is designed to intimidate revolutionary figures and to sow a sense of insecurity within intellectual circles in the country."

The student associations plan to organise a rally at Tehran University on Sunday to voice their outrage over the ban and "defend their rights." The former managing director of PEYAM, Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, is expected to deliver a speech.

The ban was seen here as another setback for Islamic leftist newspapers, which are among the few to publish independent information, provoking angry responses from top officials.

The weekly was the second radical newspaper to be banned in the Islamic republic this year after the closure of JAHAN-E-ISLAM (World of Islam) in February.

PEYAM recently published a series of articles exposing a multi-million-dollar embezzlement in a state bank in Tehran, in which the brother of a top official was later implicated.

AFP Reports on Further Protesting

NC0608101795 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 6 (AFP) — Hundreds of Islamic radical students held a rally at Tehran University on Sunday [6 August] to protest the closure of a popular left-wing newspaper.

University officials closed the gates to the campus during the rally in front of a mosque, barring entry to anyone without a student card.

The authorities banned the PEYAM-E-DANESHJU (Student's Message) weekly last Monday after accusing it of printing sensational news items and failing to conform with the country's press law.

The paper was very popular for its open and biting criticism of Iranian leaders, notably President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a militant speech to the rally, the former managing director of the weekly, Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, criticised the ban as a "violation of the constitution and freedom of expression."

He blasted university authorities for ordering the gates closed during the protest, saying the move was reminiscent of the repressive measures taken towards university students by last shah of Iran.

The 1979 "Islamic revolution triumphed after people crashed through the closed gates of universities" in a sign of protest, he told protestors.

"Closing the newspaper does not solve the problems," Tabarzadi added, referring to the country's social and economic ills formerly addressed by PEYAM.

He urged the authorities to scrap the ban against the weekly, "which had become a voice for the poor and the oppressed to express their grievances."

It was the second Islamic leftist newspaper to be banned in Iran this year after the closure of JAHAN-E-ISLAM (World of Islam) in February.

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PEYAM recently published a series of articles exposing a multi-million-dollar embezzlement in a state bank in Tehran, in which the brother of a top official was implicated.

Before its closure, the weekly was sued by two senior officials and PEYAM's offices were attacked by gunmen last month after reportedly receiving anonymous threats.

Pakistan

MQM Chief Views 'Conspiracy' in Interview Report

BK0608094095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Aug 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by Syed Nadeem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Afaq Ahmad, chief of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] (Haqiqi), says there is little doubt that the Karachi crisis is a result of an international conspiracy, determined by India and the United States.

Afaq, once the closest and most powerful associated of Altaf Hussain, said this in an interview to THE NATION on Friday [4 August]. Sitting in his main office in Landhi and guarded by armed youth, the Haqiqi chief spoke openly on the background and the current situation in the city.

"We have spent years with Altaf and we know what his designs are. I know what kind of contacts he had with the Indian and US diplomats and what they used to discuss. These contacts were all part of a dangerous game to disintegrate Pakistan."

"That is where we had fallen out with Altaf. We wanted to struggle for the rights of Muhajirs politically and by remaining within the geographical limits of the country. But he and other plans, working according total certain timeframe whose deadline was 1997."

Substantiating his point, he said since no international pressure had been able to defer Pakistan from pursuing its nuclear programme, the offensive of another nature was launched.

"It is a conspiracy to first economically weaken Pakistan and then go for its disintegration. The Karachi situation is a clear example of that. The economy is under threat of a collapse because of the city's conditions and the suggestions made by Altaf Group for a separate province."

The chief of his own MQM faction disclosed that "contrary to general impression that the business is moving towards up country, most of the industry is being shifted to India and Bangladesh. These are the signals which set the pattern for events to come." In his opinion, the year 1996 is most crucial as far as fate of Karachi was concerned.

When asked, he said giving Muhajirs their due rights was the only solution. "In the present setup, Muhajirs can never get into power or have their due share. Whoever enjoys support in the interior would always have majority in Sindh Assembly. Therefore, the only way to alleviate Muhajirs' problems is to introduce a separate administrative unit for Sindh urban. This new unit should have their own assembly and a leader of their own choice; one who can understand and solve their problems."

Did he not mean a separate province? was the obvious question. [punctuation as received] "There is no harm in creating a new province. After all, the current division of provinces had also been made on lingual basis. In doing so, the factors of area and population were not considered important. But I would like to call it a new administrative unit, not province. You have to do that if Muhajirs are to be given a sense of participation in the government affairs, there is no other solution."

Asked about the scenario after a new administrative unit and the apprehensions that the Establishment has on this, he made it clear that Muhajirs had never thought in terms of independence. "It is only the dream of Altaf Hussain and his coterie but they do not represent the collective thinking of Muhajirs."

He said all the government actions were further deepening the sense of deprivation in Muhajirs. "Thousands of appointments are being made in the education department and National Bank. Assistant commissioners are being directly recruited. In Sindh, People's Party is also an ethnic party. Muhajirs have never supported it. And even now, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] is giving jobs only to non-Muhajirs. Most of the revenue paid by us is spent on rural Sindh."

About the current negotiations, he said these talks would not achieve much as these were not aimed at solving the problems of Muhajirs. "It is a dialogue just between government and the Altaf Group. These talks are centred around some concession wanted by both sides. Altaf Group is only talking about his arrested militants, cases against them and a respite from the ongoing law enforcement operation. He is not interested in city problems."

To another question, he said: "The reason why I am not involved in the process is because my workers are not involved in violence. The government is talking to

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Altaf Group because it is his militants who are killing innocent people."

He was of the opinion that the government did not seem sincere in talks as it was only aimed at gaining time. He also described Altaf's actions as harmful for the entire country and observed that Bangladesh-like situation was being created.

Afaq Ahmad equally blamed the government for creating tension among the common citizens. "In this regard, both are doing the same thing; terrorising the people of Karachi. While Altaf Group is killing citizens in cold blood, the government agencies are subjecting them to harassment and victimisation. The law enforcement agencies lay a siege around an area, hundreds of people are arrested and blindfolded. They are taken to police stations like prisoners and interrogated.

"In Liaquatabad, 270 persons were arrested but only three were retained for interrogation. Now the rest would obviously curse the administration for causing so much trouble and embarrassment. This hatred against police and Rangers is accumulating."

The Haqiqi leader said the citizens were getting fed up with the administrative excesses and sympathies for Altaf Hussain were seeing a revival. "The government, through indiscriminate law and order drive, is again strengthening Altaf's position in masses."

Afaq bitterly criticised the government agencies for their failure to arrest the real killers. "I wonder what the intelligence agencies are doing. They should be asked that so much funds are given to them and yet they are unable to pick up the militants who are roaming freely. In my opinion, they can track them down but they are just not trying hard enough."

About his own role, he said he was ready to point out such elements. "In fact I have done it already by surrendering the criminals within my own party ranks." He said he also proposed his 12 points to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto some time back but so far there had been no response.

Afaq said it was he who had withdrawn his workers from the District Central only to avoid violence. He claimed that even now people were inviting him to come and take over this most troubled district. "But I am resisting those temptations because it could begin another gang war. We do control a part of Karachi but my first aim is to strengthen my position in the citizens."

Here he made another interesting remark. "The impression is wrong that violence in Karachi is because of factional fighting. There is no such thing now. It is basically Altaf Group which is killing innocent citizens. Added to that are other small groups which are capitalising on the confusion by extorting Bhatta [money] and settling their own scores."

He was frank in admitting that the people rejected his group in the last elections. "That is why I have always resisted offers to join the government I will only do that when I have people's mandate behind me."

About the strength of Altaf Group, he said he still had around 1,500 to 2,000 militants operating in Karachi. "They are in groups working under different gang leaders. The frontline team of Altaf is abroad. A large number of militants are in hiding. They would resurface as soon as the going goes easy in Karachi.

"But what nobody is trying to understand is that why are the number of militants keeps multiplying. Altaf is not facing any difficulty in cultivating new recruits. The reason is simple; the jobless youth continue to get attracted to the gangster-like way of life."

In the end, Afaq spoke about his plans. Very frankly, he said he had committed many mistakes. "We have done some things which we should not have. So my only aim in life is to make up for the past mistakes. I am not like Altaf who has left his people. Though, there is always a constant threat to my life but I would remain here to serve my party."

In a bid to control different parts of the city, Afaq's group is said to be retaining areas like Malir, Shah Faisal Colony and Lines area Landhi is his stronghold from where he rules his mini-kingdom.

Just before his main office, there is a big barricade. No traffic can get through without identification. Getting down from the car, as we neared his office, a 17-year boy appeared carrying a Kalashnikov. Inside the office one comes across some more armed guards, all in their teens or twenties. All of them wear a suspicious look. Once we were properly checked, Afaq came out of his office to greet us.

Clad in a white Kurta Shalwar, he hardly looked like a militant. But the suspense and tension, which was all around, said it all.

Outside his home-like office, young boys were on guard with menacing automatic weapons.

Bhutto's Comments on Talks, Other Issues Detailed

BK0608102595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Aug 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has advised the Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif to avoid joining hands with terrorists in Karachi,

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saying that he is mistaken if he thinks he can grab power at the cost of people's blood. Responding to a question about Punjab Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo's future, she said "He is PML (J)'s [Pakistan Muslim League - Junejo's] nominee and it is up to his party to decide about his future." She was talking to newsmen at late Mumtaz Daultana's residence here on Saturday [5 August] where she reached to console the latter's death with his son Javaid Mumtaz Daultana, his daughter Shahida Daultana, Son-in Law Mehmood Khoro and nephew Farooq Suldheera. Punjab Governor Raja Saroop Khan, Naheed Khan, Haji Azizur Rehman Chan and Nazim Hussain Shah (junior) also accompanied her. She urged the Opposition leader to give preference to national cause instead of point-scoring as he too has to go back to the court of people. She said Altaf Group's militants are killing innocent people in Karachi and Altaf Hussain has also owned the terrorists, hence Nawaz Sharif has no justification to defend them. Responding to a question, she said there is no need to appeal the Opposition for cooperation on Karachi issue adding that it is a national issue and they are very much aware about it. She said it was Nawaz Sharif who initiated Army Operation in Karachi and on his orders cases were registered against Altaf Hussain, Salem Shahzad and Imran Farooq. She reminded Nawaz Sharif that he himself had said that "he will not care 14 members (MQM's MNAs) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement's members of National Assembly] and will prefer national interest." [sentence as published] She said Altaf Group is still killing innocent people in Karachi and one of the terrorist of this group Farooq Dada was involved in killing of Army and Rangers personnel including Major Amir and others. She said they were also involved in killing people and putting their bodies in bags. The Premier said that she believes in dialogue and a year back in a meeting with Altaf Group, she had made clear to them that peace could be restored if they surrender their arms. She said she still believes that Karachi issue could be resolved through dialogue and hoped that Altaf Group will play its role in this regard. She said the government team is waiting for find out a solution to Karachi crises through talk. She, however, said dialogue does not mean they have surrendered but it means a political settlement between two parties.

Responding to another question about Altaf Group's demands, she said the government may accommodate them but there are some demands of the state and these should also be accepted. She said to restore peace in Karachi, there could be a quid pro quo with Altaf Group. She said they could not accept only Altaf Group's demands and it is also unjustified that during dialogue, killings in Karachi continue.

About the reunification of different factions of Muslim League and PML (J) chief Hamid Nasir Chattha's claim that one day Muslim League will rule not only Punjab but the whole country, she said. "They will welcome the reunification of the League under the leadership of Hamid Nasir Chattha and added that PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] will remain intact till next elections and even after that, despite the reunification." She said Chattha is a democratic-minded person and playing main role for the political stability in the country.

When asked about the delay in implementation of PDF's July 18th amended agreement, she said they want to run the Punjab government affairs according to October 1993 agreement. She said they are trying to settle the disputes and remove the obstacles in the implementation of this accord amicably and added that she is satisfied that there is political stability in Punjab. However, she dispelled the impression that all is well in Punjab and admitted that there are problems but they are trying to settle them through dialogue. She said the chief Minister is also supposed not to violate his party's discipline.

Commenting on ongoing rifts and dispute in Punjab PDF, she said Manzoor Wattoo and Senior Minister Makhdoom Altaf are there to settle these issues. Moreover, Cabinet and Assembly can also play their 'role' to resolve these issues, she said. To another question, she said their alliance is with PML (J) and under the leadership of Hamid Nasir Chattha, PDF is going well. She said "Punjab Chief Minister should also keep in his mind that the Senior Minister Makhdoom Altaf is the representative of the majority party and he (Makhdoom) should be given proper weightage."

When asked to comment about the recent hours long meetings of the PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz] leaders including Ejazul Haq and Chairman Senate Wasim Sajjad with Punjab Chief Minister, Opposition's claim that Wattoo will play main role in the formation of the national government and PPP's [Pakistan People's Party's] fear that Wattoo has become hostile to them after these meetings, she avoided all these questions except saying that she had also met Wasim Sajjad and Begum Nasim Wali.

When she was pointed out that a PML (J) Minister Riaz Fatiana in a statement had said that they will part ways with PPP if it tries to remove Wattoo, she said "I am not aware about this statement." When she was asked that PPP's Ministers have complained that Wattoo has refused to accommodate their list regarding transfers, postings of the government officials, she ignored this question also.

When asked why the decision of appointing the heads of the development authorities like LDA [Land Devel-

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opment Agency] and others on the recommendation of PPP was not implemented, she said "It is our internal matter and why you people want to make it an issue." She hoped that being a senior politician Manzoor Wattoo will take his senior partner into confidence. She also kept mum when she was asked about the cases registered against Punjab Chief Minister and his aides in FIA [Federal Investigation Agency].

However displeasure could easily be read on her face when she was asked questions about Punjab Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo.

Responding to the Opposition leader's allegation that [rupees] Rs 500 million of Flood Relief Fund have been embezzled by the government, she denied that there was any fund of this amount. "Nawaz Sharif is our respected Opposition leader and I advise him not to exploit flood-affected people for political gain," she said.

PPI adds: Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto on Saturday conducted aerial view of the flood-affected areas of Lahore and Gujranwala Divisions.

Later, she visited the flood-hit area of Wahndo (Gujranwala). She distributed the cheques of financial assistance to habitants of a Christian Colony there. She also distributed eatables among the flood-affectees.

Talking to the flood-affectees, she assured full cooperation to them in their early rehabilitation. She said that the government was alive to the sufferings of the flood-affectees and was making all-out efforts for their rehabilitation. The Prime Minister, later flew back to Lahore.

Bhutto Urges Altaf Group To Resume Peace Talks

BK0508154595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government wants the Altaf Group to come forward and begin the process of talks for the resumption of peace in Karachi. Speaking to newsmen in Lahore this evening after expressing her condolences to the bereaved family of the noted Muslim Leaguer, the late Mian Mumtaz Mohammad Khan Daulatana, the prime minister said the government has begun talks with the Altaf Group with an open mind since it wants to resolve the problem in Karachi and restore peace there. She said the matter can be settled on a give-and-take basis, but only the demands of the Altaf Group cannot be met. The prime minister said if the Altaf Group has certain demands, the country also has certain demands. She said the country's demands are that the terrorists should lay down their arms and surrender before the law. Because, as long as the politics of terrorism continues, peace cannot be established in Karachi.

Altaf Group Said Contacted About Resuming Talks

BK0508133495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs and head of the official negotiating team with Altaf Group, Professor N.D. Khan, has said Altaf Group team has been officially contacted for the resumption of talks and an offer has also been made to remove the irritants, if any. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said one official team member, Mr. Zuhair Akram Nadeem, has contacted Altaf Group team and asked them to resume the talks. He said the government can consider Altaf Group's demand regarding its name, provided it submits clarification on vital issues. He said the government has adopted flexible and liberal approach and wants to settle political issues on give-and-take basis. He said Altaf Group has demanded permission for one member, Mr. Shoib Bukhari, to go to London for seeking guidance from Altaf Hussain. He said this could also not become the reason for the deadlock in the talks, as consultation with Altaf Hussain can be made in many ways.

Minister Views Politics of Altaf Hussain Group

BK0508100495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official statement issued in Karachi says seven persons were killed and six injured in various parts of the city yesterday.

Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, federal minister for information and broadcasting, said Altaf Hussain's reaction to the killing of a notorious terrorist proves that his group believes in using the language of terrorism in politics. In a statement in Islamabad, he said it was an established fact that Farooq Dada, who was killed in an encounter with police in Karachi a few days ago, had unleashed a reign of terror in the city and the people of Karachi were fed up with his acts of terrorism. Commenting on the incident of seizure of weapons by the Crime Investigating Agency of Karachi yesterday, the federal minister said this reveals the designs of the terrorists.

The meeting of Altaf Group's negotiating team, held in Karachi, reviewed the situation arising out of the stalemate occurred in the talks with the government team. A statement issued by the team after its meeting says: The government's negotiating team (?after its meeting) informed on Friday [4 August] evening over

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telephone that if a new date for dialogue is agreed upon and the talks are held on the agreed date, it can be ensured that in future, Altaf Group will not be called Altaf Group. However, a member of the government's negotiating team said during the next round of talks, it is imperative on the part of Altaf Group to give written clarifications on the six points put forward by the government.

'Huge Quantity' of Arms Seized by Police Agency

BK0408135195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CIA [Crime Investigation Agency], Karachi, has foiled an attempt to smuggle arms into Karachi and recovered huge quantity of weapons being smuggled in from Quetta today. The arms recovered included 54 submachine guns, 35,000 cartridges, 14 pistols of 9-mm caliber along with magazines, four bags containing 20 kg explosives, 626 TNT demolition blocks, 100 electric detonators, 40 hand grenades, and 100 cartridges of 9 mm.

Police said the submachine guns can also be used for firing rockets and TNT demolition blocks were enough for destroying several buildings. Police believe that the arms and explosives were being brought to Karachi to carry out large-scale destruction in the city as well as for terrorist activities. According to the police, both truck drivers and the cleaners have been arrested and cases registered under Arms Ordinance and Explosives Act.

Sindhi-Speaking Natives Protest Karachi Killings

BK0608150095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Aug 6 (AFP) — Sindhi-speaking natives in Pakistan's troubled Sindh Province were on strike Sunday [6 August] to protest bloodshed in this port city, as five more people were killed, residents and police said.

The protest was called by the Sindhi nationalist Jeay Sindh Tarraqi Pssand Party (JSTPP) after claims by its members that many native Sindhis, who are the majority community in the province, had been killed in violence that has wracked Karachi.

Two unidentified civilians were shot dead by snipers on Sunday and three bullet-ridden bodies were found by the [word indistinct]. Eight people were reported killed in the city on Saturday with four mutilated bodies in sacks being found by police.

Talks between the government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), an opposition group which represent Urdu-speaking settlers who migrated here after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, remained deadlocked.

The government accuses the MQM of waging a terrorist campaign in Karachi but the party denies the charge and has blamed the violence to the "anti-Muhajir" policy of the government.

The talks were halted at the end of July after four unproductive rounds.

Sindhi nationalist leaders have also blamed the killings on MQM militants.

Press reports Sunday quoted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as saying the government was willing to settle with the MQM provided it "quits the politics of violence."

Witnesses meanwhile said the Sindhi strike was also observed in villages and rural townships as well as in other cities but the response was partial.

Black flags were hoisted by residents in Sindhi-dominated suburban localities in Karachi and in Hyderabad. Sindhi students boycotted university classes in Hyderabad and a few hundred staged a peaceful protest march, witnesses said.

No incidents were reported during the protest, officials said.

"We don't want ethnic violence in Karachi, but it would be difficult to pacify our people if the killings of our people continue," JSTPP chairman Qadir Magsi said.

Magsi said Sindhi-speaking people had been targetted in Karachi, where more than 2,000 have died over the past 20 months in political and religious violence.

Altaf Group 'Terrorists' Arrested in Karachi

BK0608162695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a combined operation, Crime Investigating Agency (?police) headquarters and Nazimbabad police arrested four alleged terrorists of Altaf Group in Karachi. They are: Fahim Farooqi alias Fahim Commando, Yusuf Rahman alias Rizwan, Vishan Haider, and Altaf Qureshi. According to police sources, a Klashnikov rifle, two TT pistols, and 500 rounds of ammunition were recovered from their possession. Fifteen criminal cases of murder, robbery, and sniper shooting have been filed against the arrested terrorists. During preliminary interrogation, the arrested persons admitted to being involved in various incidents of murders. They also stated that former Sindh Assembly Speaker Abdur Razi Khan; Senators Aftab Sheikh and Nirzari Majeed; and several police officers were on

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President Details 'Proposals' for Devolution

BK0408115295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has only put forward a set of proposals for the devolution of power, however many other criteria has to be met to enact legislation to implement the proposals.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga made these observations when she addressed foreign and local media correspondents at a news conference held at the Presidential Secretariat this morning. She said that a considerable period of time will be required to set the views in motion. This time could be used profitably to launch a comprehensive dialogue regarding these proposals throughout the country. The various political parties and organizations will have sufficient time to express their views. These could be taken into consideration in formulating the proposed legislation. However, the president warned that the government will not deviate from the basic framework of these proposals. The special Select Committee appointed to review the present Constitution will receive draft chapters of the proposed legislation in the next two or three weeks. At that time too views could be expressed. The government will make arrangements to send a set of proposals to the people of the North.

In response to a question from the media as to whether the proposals will be sent to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the president said that it was not necessary to send the proposals to an organization at war with the government. The president was confident that the people of this country will approve the set of proposals for the devolution of power. In response to a query as to what stand she would take if the LTTE desired a cease-fire to consider the proposals, Mrs. Kumaratunga said that she would consider such a request if there is one only clear-cut consideration.

Ministers Professor G.L. Peiris and Dharmasiri Senanayake, and Deputy Minister Alavi Maulana were associated with the president in the news conference.

President Accuses Rebels of Using Children in War

BK0408125595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 4 (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Friday [4 August] accused separatist rebels of using young boys and girls in their battle against security forces.

Kumaratunga said the dozens of dead children in uniform found after an attack on an army camp last week showed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) used child combatants.

"I was absolutely horrified to see the children used like this," Kumaratunga said. "I do not know how an organisation which proclaims to protect the people could expose the children to war."

The LTTE admitted losing 180 fighters, including 128 women, in their failed bid last week to overrun the Weli Oya army complex and have launched a hunt for a "traitor" who gave information to the military.

President Hopeful of Military, Political Victory

BK0508114595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga said that it would be possible to create the climate to defeat the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militarily as well as politically by putting forward the proposals for a political solution of the ethnic crisis. Addressing journalists at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday, the president said that an acceptable solution to the just demands of the Tamil people will make them shun the LTTE which stood for war. She said that the LTTE was able to influence the Tamil people all this while because a solution was not put forward to the problems faced by them. This situation will be overcome through the political proposals offered by government. The Tamil people who suffered from war over a long period would show a clear interest in a political solution.

In reply to a question on whether these proposals would be forwarded to the LTTE, the president replied that there was no such idea. It could not be done when there is a war with the LTTE. She was asked what was your position if the LTTE requested a cease-fire to consider these proposals. The president replied that such a request could be considered nothing short of fear and decisive condition. Only a series of proposals have now be unveiled. Political parties and public organizations will have the opportunity to put forward their views during the period up to the time they are legally adopted. However, the president observed that the basic proposals would not change. The proposals will be presented to a Parliamentary Select Committee within three weeks. No political party has so far expressed its opposition to devolution of power. The president expressed the hope that a majority of the people will extend their support to the government's effort to resolve the problem.

Answering another question with regard to the Navali church, the president said that the church was never

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their hit list. They also admitted that all these activities were carried out through Nayim, the person in charge of the sector, and under direct instructions from Nadim Nusrat in London. Further investigations are on.

The Karachi police have arrested 76 persons along with illegal weapons, narcotics, and stolen goods. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, five persons were killed in violent incidents in Karachi today and their bodies were recovered from various parts of the city.

Sri Lanka

AFP Reports on Bomb Blast in Colombo Building

Initial Reports Say 10 Killed

BK0708055295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 7 (AFP) — A suspected Tamil suicide bomber set off an explosion at a government building in the Sri Lankan capital on Monday [7 August] killing at least 10 people, witnesses said.

The blast ripped through the entire front section of the Western Provincial Council building in Colombo where President Chandrika Kumaratunga worked till August last year.

Police said they had found the remains of a suicide bomber who carried out the attack. Initial suspicion pointed to the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas who have carried out similar attacks in the past.

Officials Suspect Rebels in Bombing

BK0708080395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 7 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas may have blasted a government office where Monday [7 August], killing more than 20 people, to highlight their opposition to President Chandrika Kumaratunga's peace plan, officials said.

Police said they found remains which showed two attackers were strapped with explosives to devastate the Western Provincial Council chief minister's office in the Cinnamon Gardens area of Colombo.

"It looks like both of them pushed a hand cart loaded with king coconuts. They triggered the device at the entrance to the building," a senior police detective said.

He said the use of suicide bombers pointed the finger at the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which opposes any settlement to the island's civil war that excludes them.

The attack came just four days after President Kumaratunga ruled out any talks with the LTTE and vowed to keep up military action to defeat the rebels.

"They may have targeted this building because it is a symbol of the provincial council system that the LTTE is opposed to. President Kumaratunga worked here before she became head of state," the detective said.

The LTTE has been accused of suicide bombing in the past with the more recent one being the assassination of opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake during an election campaign rally in October.

The military had expected a bomb attack in the capital following the LTTE's rout on July 28 when they lost over 300 fighters during an abortive attempt to overrun an army camp in the island's northeast.

"This looks very much like a revenge attack for Weli Oya and a response to the government's peace package," a military spokesman said.

The government has unveiled a plan to devolve power to minority Tamils but ruling out granting power to the LTTE which is leading the Tamil separatist campaign.

Police Identify Suicide Bomber

BK0708125895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP) — The suicide bomber who blasted a government building here Monday [7 August] killing 21 people was identified as a Tamil vendor, police Deputy Inspector— General H. M. Kotakadeniya said.

The man pushed a cart of king coconuts and a bomb which he exploded outside the office of the Western Province Chief Minister causing heavy damage to the building located at the high security Cinnamon Gardens area.

"We know his identity. We know his antecedents. We arrested one of his associates on suspicion yesterday," Kotakadeniya said without giving further details of the arrest.

Police say the devastating attack was carried out by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which has been accused of similar attacks in the capital. There has been no word from the LTTE.

The attack was the first to directly target civilians in nearly eight years. On November 9, 1987, suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas set off a powerful car bomb at Colombo's Maradana district, killing 32 people.

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bombed and it is intact. The Archbishop had informed her of this in writing. Only a few tiles have been damaged as a result of some sharpnels or mortars having fallen on the premises of the church. She noted that it is regrettable that the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] personnel should have issued a statement saying that they saw with their own eyes a bomb fall on the church. Up till now, the church had not issued a statement. The president added that she expected further details on the incident from the Bishop of Jaffna.

Troops Launch 'Successful' Raid on Tamil Rebels

BK0408142295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 4 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops backed by air cover launched a lightning raid on Tamil guerrilla positions in the north Friday [4 August], killing an unspecified number of rebels and losing three of their own men, officials said.

Troops broke out of their forward defences at Alaveddi in the northern Jaffna peninsula to carry out "a limited offensive" against positions held by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a military spokesman said.

"It was a very successful operation. Three of our men were killed and 20 were wounded. We did a manoeuvre and then returned to base," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said that soldiers had recovered the body and a weapon of a LTTE cadre killed in the fighting but said that LTTE transmissions monitored by the military indicated that rebel casualties "were higher."

Security forces met stiff resistance but were later able to advance inside rebel-held territory, Munasinghe said, adding that "maximum possible precautions have been taken to avoid civilian casualties."

The military assault came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga vowed to implement a peace plan for the embattled northeast while continuing the current military campaign against the LTTE.

The latest army action followed an LTTE grenade attack on a police Special Task Force patrol in eastern Ampara district that left a police commando dead and wounded three other policemen in eastern Ampara district, officials said.

Under a peace plan unveiled by Kumaratunga on Thursday, Sri Lanka would be turned into a "Union of Regions" that would give unprecedented autonomy to the country's two million minority Tamils.

The LTTE pulled out from six months of peace talks on April 19 to resume its guerrilla campaign to establish a separate Tamil state in the northeast. More than 50,000 have been killed in the protracted ethnic conflict.

'LTTE Terrorist Attack' Repulsed by Task Force

BK0608122895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Special Police Task Force [STF] commandos repulsed an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist attack on their base in the (?East) late last night. According to security sources, the STF commandos launched a counter attack on the terrorists from behind them as they [words indistinct] a patrol from one end of the base. One terrorist was killed and three weapons recovered after the (?fierce) fight which lasted until early this morning. Police commandos suffered no casualty. Military sources said the terrorists were believed to be planning attacks on isolated police posts on the East coast after stealing five boats from fishermen and hijacking several vehicles to transport their cadres in the past week.

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